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47727  December 1992

# Wrestling

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HEY, RIC FLAIR:

STOP WHINING  
AND START  
WINNING!

RAZOR RAMON  
TRADES IN HIS DIAMONDS  
FOR GOLD



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INSIDE

# Wrestling

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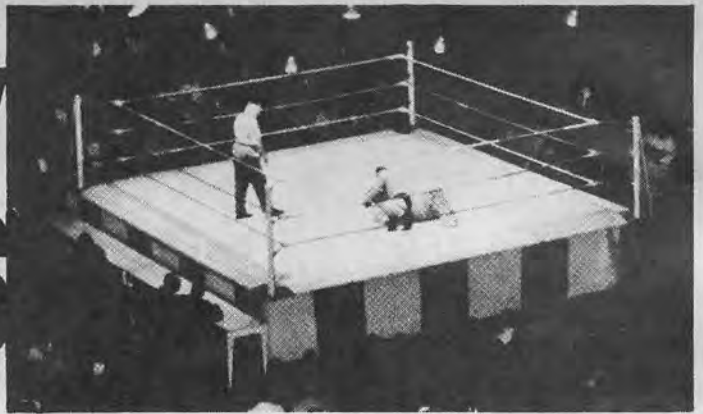
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SEND LETTERS TO:

# SINCERELY YOURS

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## KAMALA CAN

I just finished reading your article, "Kamala's Return To The WWF: Will The Savage Savage Savage?" (September 1992) and I must say that I think Kamala stands a good chance of going far in the WWF this time.



Following his successful stint in the USWA, Kamala could make a run at the WWF World title, voices reader Larry Barisciano.

During his last stint, in 1986-87, Kamala took the federation by storm and came very close to defeating Hulk Hogan on several occasions. He gave Hogan some of the toughest matches of his career. Kamala's ace in the hole, though, is that he just came off a very successful stay in the USWA. With

four heavyweight championships to his credit, I think he is ready to make another very serious run and the WWF World title.

LARRY BARISCIANO  
Staten Island, NY

## READY FOR EDDIE

I have a message for everyone at *Inside Wrestling*: Eddie Gilbert is not globally despised ("Eddie Gilbert: Globally Despised," October 1992). In fact, Eddie Gilbert is my favorite wrestler. Jerry Lawler is also an excellent wrestler, but now it's Gilbert's turn. Beating Lawler was just the beginning. Gilbert can win any title in the world.

And why did GWF strip Gilbert of the North American title? He is by far the best wrestler ever to appear in Global, and the federation threw it all away. What were they thinking? He was bringing respectability to the North American title by defending it outside of Dallas. The GWF should follow the

example set by Gilbert.

Eddie Gilbert is back on top, and he'll stay there until he retires from the sport. Long live "The King."

MIKE NOLAN  
Boothwyn, PA

## ROADIE

I have really enjoyed the column "On The Road" since Chris Bernucca took over and the October 1992 issue was no exception. His humor is great and his viewpoint is fresh.

It's hard to argue logic concerning the WWF. It treats its fans like morons who can't remember anything prior to the last pay-per-view. For example, maybe I missed it, but I'm still waiting for Jake Roberts to get back at Earthquake for squashing his snake.

Now that Roberts is in WCW, I guess that's not going to happen. Anyway, good work, Chris. Keep it up!

K.C. DARKHARTE  
Biloxi, MS



"Hot Stuff" Eddie Gilbert is not globally despised. Despite his rulebreaking ways, the USWA heavyweight champion has plenty of loyal fans, including reader Mike Nolan.



## HART ATTACK

Once again, Eddie Ellner just doesn't get it ("The Insider," August 1992).

In his column, Ellner states that Bret Hart leaves "a trail of panting teenagers in his wake." This is an insult to Hart's many fans.

I'm a "thirtysomething" mother of two who's been a wrestling fan since the age of eight. Yes, Hart is one of the greatest ring technicians in the his-



Bret "Hitman" Hart appeals to women of all ages, not just teenagers, as Eddie Ellner surmises. Reader Terry Donnelly, a mother of two in her 30s, will testify to that.

tory of the sport, but I won't deny that I think he is a 15 on a scale of 1 to 10. I've never gone as far as panting, but Hart does have the ability to raise the old pulse rate a few notches.

The point I am trying to make is that there are "Hit Man" fans in every age group. All it takes is an appreciation of the finer things. Mr. Ellner shouldn't be so quick to generalize.

TERRY DONNELLY  
Philadelphia

## THE GREATEST

I'm getting tired of the poor attitude toward women's wrestling displayed by today's fans. I thought we were supposed to growing less sexist in this country. Instead, it seems we are becoming more sexist.

I long to see the most gorgeous woman on this earth, and the greatest female athlete around—Madusa Miceli—in action once again. She's the best!

JASON OBERG  
Fort Covington, NY

## STEINER STAND

Pam Tyler's letter in the September 1992 issue ("Watch Out, Champs") about Terry Gordy and Steve Williams battling Rick and Scott Steiner was extremely uncalled for and one-sided. Where does she get off insulting the greatest tag team in the world today?

Sure, Gordy and Williams are a great team and have been four-time All Japan champions. But the Steiners have wrestled in Japan, too, and have taken on the best the Japanese have to offer. If the Steiners are a pair of "blowhard muscleheads," why do you think they recently won the IWGP International tag team title for the second time? Also, it seems that the only way for Gordy and Williams to beat the Steiners is for Gordy to clip Scott's left leg from behind, which is what he did in the NWA World tag team tournament. Therefore, the only two people who are scared are Gordy and Williams.

Anyway, Scott's leg is okay, and the

Steiners are going to show "Bam Bam" and "Dr. Death" why they are the greatest tag team in the world today. And don't tell me that either one of them could easily defeat Sting. The "Stinger" would eat both of them raw like sushi!

JESSICA FORDE  
Norfolk, VA

## BUDDY'S PALS

I must admit, I never saw Buddy Rogers wrestle a match. But between your flashbacks, my dad's stories, and Matt Brock, I feel like I know the "Nature Boy." I was also looking forward to the January match against Buddy Landell until Tri-State Wrestling folded.

The recent article that announced the death of Rogers left me in shock. This man was ready to fight just six months ago, and suddenly, we talk of memories of how he became the first wrestler to win the NWA and WWF World titles.

The wrestling world mourns a great wrestler and an all-around nice guy. And no matter how hard he tries, Ric Flair will never be the man that Buddy Rogers was.

SETH F. BERGER  
Highland, IN  
(Continued on page 52)



The feats of the late "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers (applying a rear chinlock on Dory Dixon) came alive on the pages of this magazine for reader Seth F. Berger, who had never witnessed the two-time World champ in competition.



# SAKS' NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Urgent message to George Bush and Bill Clinton: Drop out of the race now! I know you've spent so much time and money with your campaigns and the election is right upon us, but right is right, and I'm thinking about what's right for this country, dammit!

Do you mean to tell me that you guys think you're any more qualified than . . .

--Cactus Jack? Jack wouldn't send troops into the Persian Gulf. He'd put himself in a gift box, have himself delivered to Saddam Hussein, and—whammo!

--Curt Hennig? Clinton and Bush can hire the greatest campaign managers in the world, but for all the good stuff they can come up with about their men, can any of the same say they're perfect?

--Nailz? No Willie Horton here. He paid his debt without any wimpy weekend furloughs. Truthfully, if you were a potential criminal and you saw that you could end up with a cellmate like Nailz, wouldn't you reconsider your career options?

--Bob Backlund? He'll kiss your baby, you'll pinch his cheek, and everybody will think they're back in Ike's '50s.

--Ron Simmons? Natural progression: First black world champion, first black President.

--The Ultimate Warrior? Nobody would ever be able to criticize his speeches, because everybody would be too embarrassed to admit they don't know what the heck he's talking about.

--Papa Shango? Heard of voodoo economic policy? Nuff said.

--Rick Steamboat? In a profession where dishonest people are almost never punished, this guy's character has been beyond reproach for his nearly 20 years in the sport. And talk about family values . . .



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# NAMES MAKING

**RICK AND SCOTT Steiner** may not possess the WCW World tag team title, but a lot of knowledgeable people still consider them the best team in the world, especially after what they accomplished recently in Japan.

From August 10-16, the brother duo defended their IWGP International tag team title five times against five different sets of opponents. Their foes were **Masa Saito** and **Riki Choshu**, **The Great Muta** and **Kensuke Sasaki**, **Scott Norton** and **Bam Bam Bigelow**, **Tatsumi Fujinami** and **Takayuki Iizuka**, and **Masa Chono** and **Shinya Hashimoto**. They scored pinfall victories over every team.

"These were no run-of-the-mill guys, either," Scott said. "You're talking about some of the greatest wrestlers Japan has ever produced. People in the States know all about Muta. And Chono just won the NWA title tournament."

"This was a good warmup for **[Steve] Williams** and **[Terry] Gordy**," Rick added. "They're so busy doing dirty work for **Paul E. Dangerously**, they probably don't



THE STEINERS

even know what we just did. Hey, if they wanna be stupid and not prepare for us, that's their problem. We'll get those belts back soon enough."

In other news from Japan, Choshu defeated Muta to capture the IWGP title on August 16 in Fukuoka.

It was strange to see **Michael Hayes** of the **Freebirds** accompany **Bobby Eaton** and **Arn Anderson** to the ring on August 16 in Atlanta. After they defeated **Joey Maggs** and **The Italian Stallion**, neither Eaton nor An-



MICHAEL HAYES

derson would comment on whether their relationship with Dangerously had changed. Hayes, too, was silent. It is clear, though, that **The Dangerous Alliance** is in flux. But don't tell that to Dangerously.

"If there are any changes on the horizon, you'll find out about them when I'm ready to inform you," said the controversial manager. "I can tell you this, that no matter what goes down, the Alliance will emerge stronger than ever."

**Tommy Rich** has been both loved

and hated in the USWA, so no one really should have been surprised by his latest turn against his friends, which occurred in Memphis on August 17.

First, during a tag team match pitting Rich, **Bill Dundee**, and **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** against **Eddie** and **Doug Gilbert**, **Brian Christopher**, and **Buddy Landell**, Rich hit **Rick Morton** with a chain. Then, after Eddie Gilbert pinned Morton, Rich denied he had ever struck his partner.

Later, in the \$10,000 **Elvis Presley** tribute tag team battle royal, Rich teamed with Dundee, but hardly helped him. Moments after they and **The Moondogs** became the last two teams in the ring, Rich eliminated himself to give the victory to the 'Dogs, then joined them in beating on Dundee.

"Hey, I don't owe Dundee, Morton, or any of them a damn thing!" Rich shouted. "I owe these fans even less! I



TOMMY RICH



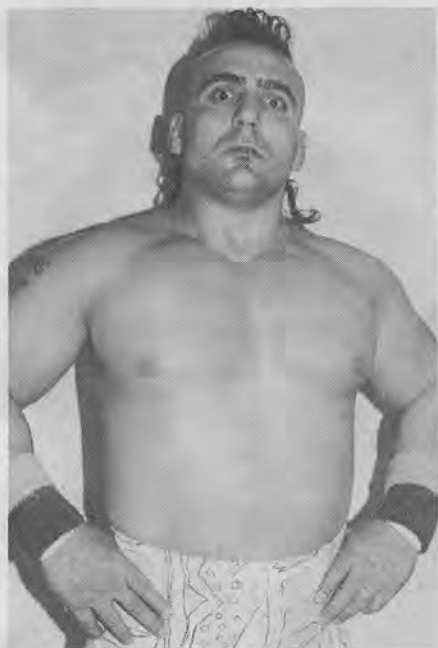
# N' NEWS

Bill Apter  
reporting...

came back here for one reason: to win some titles. I'll do whatever is necessary to get there."

That same night, Lawler and Jarrett recaptured the USWA tag team belts from The Moondogs. Had they lost, Lawler would have lost his hair.

Former WWF World tag team champion **Nikolai Volkoff** has been named to the Wrestling Independent Network championship and competition committee. Volkoff will also serve as a special referee for important matches. The WIN has a new champion in **A.C. Golden**. On August 16 in Baltimore, he defeated **Max Thrasher** in a tournament final to capture the belt. On that same night in WIN, **Sledgehammer McGill** was fined \$500 for striking a referee.



**JOHNNY HOT BODY**

ECW President **Tod Gordon** is one federation official who is determined to give the fans what they want. On August 12 in Philadelphia, **Johnny Hot Body** squared off against **Larry Winters** to determine the first ECW TV champion. After Winters was disquali-



**CARLOS COLON**

fied for striking referee **John Finnegan**, Gordon ordered the match restarted, ruling that there had to be a winner.

Hot Body went on to score the pin by using outside interference, but at least the fans saw someone win that night, rather than see the match rescheduled. As for Hot Body, his joy was dampened by the fact that he injured tendons in his left knee during the bout. He was expected to be out of action for several weeks.

Fans in Puerto Rico's WWC are cheering **Abdullah the Butcher** as he battles newly crowned Universal champion **Invader I**. It's odd in a



**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**

way, because when Invader won the title from **Carlos Colon**, he was cheered. But it's in Abdullah's nature to do something so despicable the people will soon be against him again.

Congratulations to **Dave Brown**, who is celebrating his 25th anniversary as a USWA broadcaster. On a recent USWA TV program, matchmaker **Ed-die Marlin** presented Brown with a gold watch . . . The tag team of **Ron**



**BLACK BART**

**Starr** and **Doug Masters** has left the WWC, as has **Black Bart**.

Will USWA star Jeff Jarrett's challenge to WWF Intercontinental champion **Bret Hart** spur other interfederational challenges? If it does, that can only be good news for the sport. When the organizations recognize each other, everyone wins: the fans, the wrestlers, and the promoters.

There was a time when the WWF and NWA World champions frequently engaged in title vs. title bouts. Imagine the excitement of title-unification matches on a regular basis!

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

**W**AX PAPER AND styrofoam are part of this nutritious breakfast. As the Metroliner rolls along the rails, I am biting into a lacquered danish and sipping see-through coffee. The two form a low-grade wallpaper paste in my mouth. All aboard, America. All aboard Amtrak.

The month of July is over, and so is my suspension for abusing my company expense account. Associate Publisher Stu Saks has relented, allowing me to travel via planes, trains, and automobiles. However, I must provide receipts for every purchase.

This morning at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia, I purchased a ticket to Baltimore and requested a receipt. I bought the Sunday *Inquirer* and asked for a receipt. I gave a homeless person a quarter and asked him for a receipt. He swore at me.

If tonight's card in Baltimore is anything like the previous night's card in Philadelphia, this will almost be a good weekend. The Civic Center crowd saw the return to the ring of Madusa, who pinned Heidi Lee Morgan, a fine wrestler who had compiled a long winning streak within the independent ranks.

Although she hadn't wrestled competitively in six months, Madusa showed no ring rust and destroyed Morgan. So before you belittle this achievement, consider this: If Sid Justice returned from a six-month absence and pinned Crush, it would be on the cover of this magazine.

The Metroliner arrives at Baltimore's Pennsylvania Station. I hail a cab and request to be taken to the Arena. Unlike New York, the taxi drivers in other cities speak English and do not drive like Dale Earnhardt. Upon arriving at my destination, I pay the driver and ask him for a receipt. He swears at me in English.

Tonight's card promises a title match between World champion Big Van Vader and Sting. The last time I saw Sting, he was laying motionless on the canvas, a victim of Vader's power bomb and about to become ex-champion.

That image recalled an evening during my tenure at The Associated Press, when Mike Tyson needed just 91 seconds to demolish Michael Spinks. As the referee launched into his 10-count, boxing writer Ed Schuyler barked instructions into his phone at ringside in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "Get ready with the lead," Schuyler told the rewrite desk in New York. "He ain't gettin' up."

Sting got up that night, but only with the help of a handful of fan favorites. On this night in Baltimore, Sting did not get up. His evening began at the broadcast table and ended in the hospital.

Now pay attention, because there will be a short quiz later in the column. During a U.S. title match, Nikita Koloff ducked a clothesline from Rick Rude, who instead clobbered referee Randy Anderson. Cactus Jack then attacked Koloff with a chair. Sting raced to the ring to help Koloff. It was an impromptu War Games.

Then Jake "The Snake" Roberts entered the ring.

The last time we saw Roberts, he was wrestling for the rival initials. It was at WrestleMania VIII in early-April and The Undertaker was using Roberts' head to try to break ground for a new Hoosier Dome floor. After receiving a series of tombstone piledrivers, Roberts could be excused for wandering into a strange federation.

But Roberts was not lost. He knew exactly where he

## ON THE ROAD

with  
CHRIS BERNUCCA

was going. He went right after Sting and delivered two of his infamous DDTs, slamming Sting onto the chair and knocking him unconscious. Roberts was about to release his poisonous pet snake from its bag when an armada of fan favorites bum-rushed the ring.

With Sting en route to the hospital, WCW Vice President Bill Watts held a lottery to determine Vader's opponent, despite the protests of manager Harley Race. Ron Simmons won the lottery, the match, and the World title.

Big deal. Simmons never would have gotten a shot at the title without the actions of Roberts, who made his mark on

WCW before he even signed a contract to wrestle. In a matter of seconds, Roberts pulled off the nearly impossible feat of antagonizing both WCW fan favorites and rulebreakers.

While in the WWF, Roberts turned his reptile loose on The Ultimate Warrior and Randy Savage. He threatened to hit Elizabeth with a chair, an act that converted The Undertaker into a fan favorite. Prior to his departure, he couldn't even find a tag team partner.

Roberts was not one of the WWF's "macabre cartoon" characters once referred to by Watts. He didn't dress like a prison guard or a bullfighter. He didn't worship a smoldering skull or a cremation urn. He didn't carry a briefcase or a perfume dispenser. All he did was wreak havoc with his skills and his snake. And based on his behavior in Baltimore, the only thing that Roberts has changed is federations.



Jake "The Snake" Roberts

Jake Roberts once was a headache for Jack Tunney. That headache now belongs to Bill Watts. If Watts wants to give WCW its own distinct identity, he must immediately forbid Roberts from bringing his snake to ringside.

Watts showed that he could think on his feet when he organized the championship lottery on a moment's notice. He has to act quickly regarding Jake Roberts, before his federation resembles the San Diego Zoo.

Or worse, the WWF. □



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# TOP SECRET

## Behind the Dressing Room Door

by **David  
Rosenbaum**

I'M SICK. THERE is now positive proof that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. The wonderful news that The Honky Tonk Man is rescaling the heights to the top of the wrestling world is, unfortunately, terribly offset by the reunion of The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

First things first: I have nothing at all against Rick Morton and Robert Gibson as wrestlers. Morton and Gibson are very good wrestlers.

As people, they're sickening.

Number two: My main problem has never been with the Rock 'n' Rolls. It's been with the fans who embrace their party-all-night mentality with the verve of a fat man at Sizzler's all-you-can-eat buffet bar.

Maybe I've told this story once before, but I'll never forget a night six years ago at the Philadelphia Civic Center. The Rock 'n' Rolls won the NWA World tag team title that night and the crowd went absolutely wild. I turned to a friend and shook my head. I looked behind me and saw a young couple, obviously fans of the Rock 'n' Rolls by the way they were dressed, embracing and kissing passionately to celebrate the victory by their heroes.

Now, I have no problem with rooting for your favorite team or wrestler, but having that reaction to a win seems a bit strange to me. I came to the conclusion right there that fans of the Rock 'n' Roll Express have absolutely no capacity for putting things into perspective.

I'm beginning to sound like Eddie Ellner.

Okay, that's another thing. My views of wrestling are pretty main-

*(Continued on page 56)*



If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

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**Actual questions**

Who did Rick Martel defeat to win the AWA World title (1984)?

- 1) Jumbo Tsuruta
- 2) Ivan Koloff
- 3) Stan Hansen
- 4) Larry Zbyszko

Which of these wrestlers was not in *Bodyslam*?

- 1) Roddy Piper
- 2) Barbarian
- 3) Warlord

True or False: Ted DiBiase's parents were both professional wrestlers.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers did not attend West Texas State University?

- 1) Tito Santana
- 2) Wahoo McDaniel
- 3) Barry Windham
- 4) Dusty Rhodes

What 21-year-old was the youngest man ever to hold the NWA World title?

- 1) Tommy Rich
- 2) Kerry Von Erich
- 3) Lou Thesz
- 4) Dory Funk Jr.

**How did you do?**

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# THE INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

*[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]*

I WROTE A column two months ago that began this way: "It's rare that a single federation can rightfully claim for its champions full scholarships into the Hall of Fame. Yet, in today's WCW, three men hold belts concurrently, and all three are primed and ready for graduation into that sacred shrine. All three bear the scars and virtues of sacrifice and study; all three shall do the institution proud."

That column won't ever be published—and not because of its insufferably pompous tone. The three men of whose accomplishments I proceeded to describe and extol no longer possess their championship gold. All three have fallen with a thud from the ranks of immortals, their tickets to eternal fame stamped "fraud."

Can these men—I speak, of course, of Sting and Rick and Scott Steiner—hope to redeem themselves and their value? Can they one day hop back on board the express train to immortality?

In a word, yes. It will take some time, though. Immediate victories will be regarded with suspicion. Real champions must sustain themselves at the top, where the air is scarce and the perch precarious. But give them a few



Sting's claim to wrestling immortality may have been voided by losing the World title to Big Van Vader. The "Stinger" may be champion again, but he has not sustained greatness.

more good years and a half-dozen title belts, and you can be certain that talk of their everlasting greatness will be renewed. It's the way things work around here.

Take this Backlund fellow, for example. I mean, does anyone remember what the guy even looks like? Can you hear his voice? Do

you recall his words or his battle cry? Me neither. Yet, Bob Backlund, dalmation-faced and whiny-voiced though he was, carried the WWF crown for six years. Six years! Longer than Pedro Morales, Superstar Graham, The Ultimate Warrior, Randy Savage . . .

*(Continued on page 60)*



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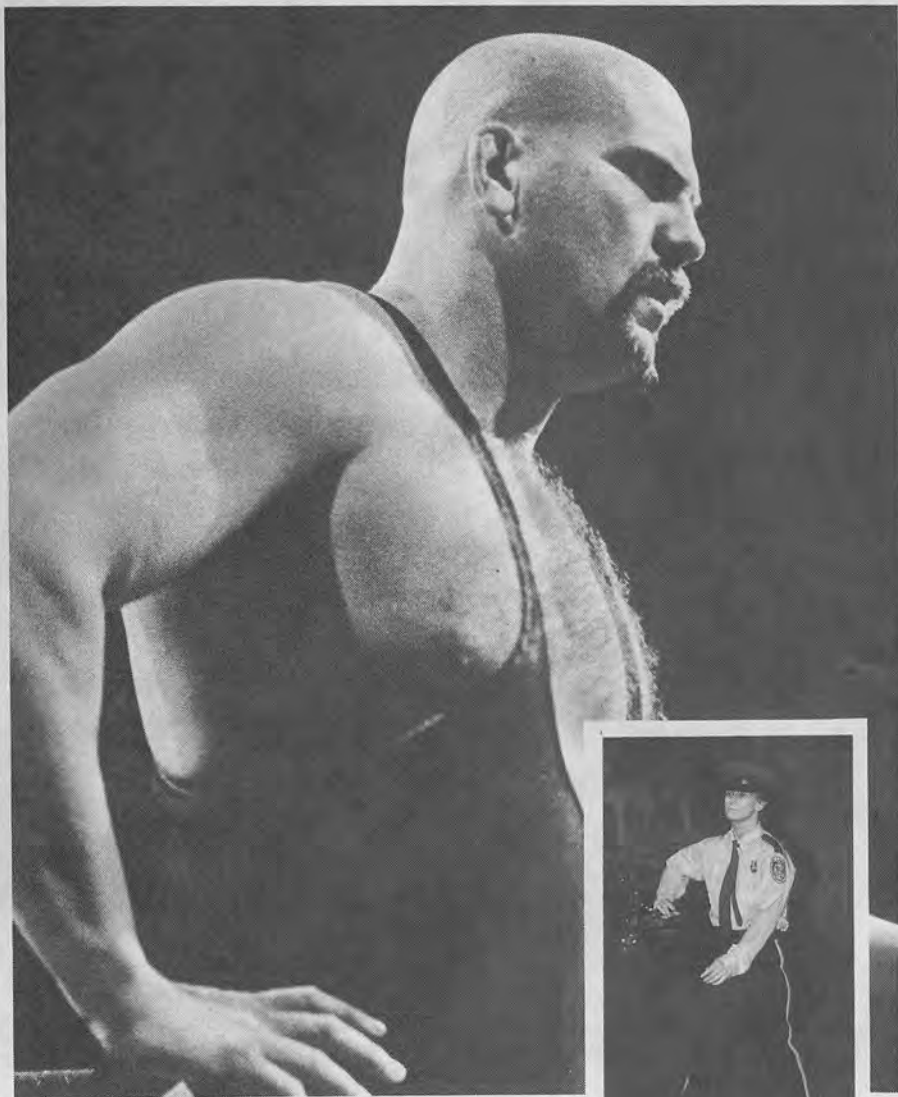
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# A—ON— ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Nikita Koloff had a flashback to his days in Lithuania when Madusa (inset), disguised as a security guard, came to ringside and kicked him during a match.



IT HAS BEEN more than 25 years, but childhood images of Soviet police brutality remain vivid in Nikita Koloff's memory.

"I can recall clearly men coming to our home and rousting my father and uncles," the Lithuanian remembers. "There was a neighbor of ours who was very active in

the anti-communist movement, and until he was caught, everyone in the town was considered an accomplice. My uncles would return home with welts and bruises. They were big, brave men—bigger than me—but they never said a word about it, even to their wives."

The experiences, repeated with chilling regularity throughout Koloff's younger years, engendered a fear and distrust of uniforms. It was a fear that the strapping wrestler brought with him to America.

"My third week in the United States, a security guard would not let me into the arena because I lacked proper identification," he recalls. "I did not know then that this man had no real power. All I saw was his uniform."

Rather than cause a scene, Koloff left the arena and missed his match. Though he can laugh about such incidents now (Koloff is an honorary member of his town's local police force and even owns his own uniform), it was no laughing matter last month in Charlotte, North Carolina, when a security guard stormed the ring during his match against Rick Rude and kicked the unsuspecting Koloff in the head.

"The action was very intense against Rude," Koloff says, "and in matches like that, my mind and thoughts jump very quickly. I remember seeing a flash of blue, then everything went blank. I lost consciousness for a few seconds, and during that time thought I was back in the Soviet Union. It was very, very strange."

Even stranger was the truth that slowly emerged from the auditorium: That was no cop—it was Madusa in uniform drag. With her hair up, Madusa's impersonation fooled everyone, especially Koloff.

*(Continued on page 58)*



# Wrestling

Now is the time to complete your collection of **SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING**, the magazine jam-packed with action photography and in-depth stories. Don't miss out on an issue. Quantities are limited, so order today! [NOTE: Cover stories noted in **BOLDFACE**.]

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 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.  
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July 1990/WrestleMania VI, Cornette, Sullivan vs. Norman, Ole.  
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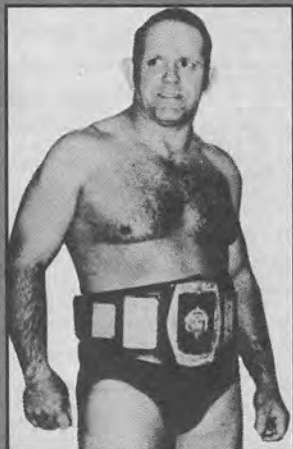
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# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## NELSON ROYAL

This North Carolina native held the NWA light heavyweight title on several occasions in the '70s and '80s, and is considered by many to be the greatest junior heavyweight to ever compete.

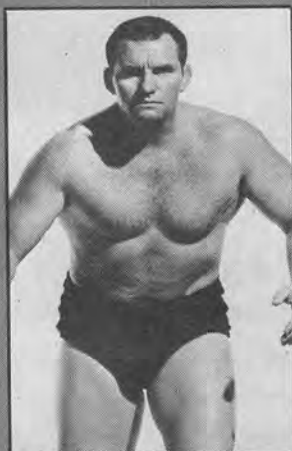
Amazingly, Royal held the Atlantic Coast junior title as recently as 1990. Royal is now retired and has opened his own clothing and leather outlet, Nelson Royal's Western Store, in his hometown of Mooresville. He also operates a successful wrestling training facility.



## DOS CARAS

The famous brother of Mil Mascaras is now a grizzled veteran, but continues to headline cards through his native Mexico. "My brother and I team periodically, and I also wrestle on my own quite a bit," the colorful Caras said. "I am

negotiating with the Japanese promoters for a tour over there. Mil is there now, and we both enjoy competing in Japan. The fans are great and so is the competition. We love to prove the Mexican style is still dominant."



## ROY HEFFERNAN

This Australian star was a member of the original Fabulous Kangaroos, which also featured devious Al Costello and scurrilous manager "Wild" Red Berry.

Heffernan retired in the late-'60s, and was replaced in the Kangaroos by Don Kent and various other partners. After his retirement, Heffernan returned to his homeland and opened several wrestling training centers, and he still serves as a trainer and teacher of young stars today.



## DIAMOND LIL

One of the famous female midget stars of the '70s, the popular and charismatic Lil refuses to retire. Lil now lives in Columbia, South Carolina, and recently complained that she's "suffering from a lack of competition! Things have gotten

so bad that now I'm wrestling male midgets!" Recent opponent Mighty Atlas had a rough recent match against Lil. "I never thought a woman could be so tough!" exclaimed Atlas.

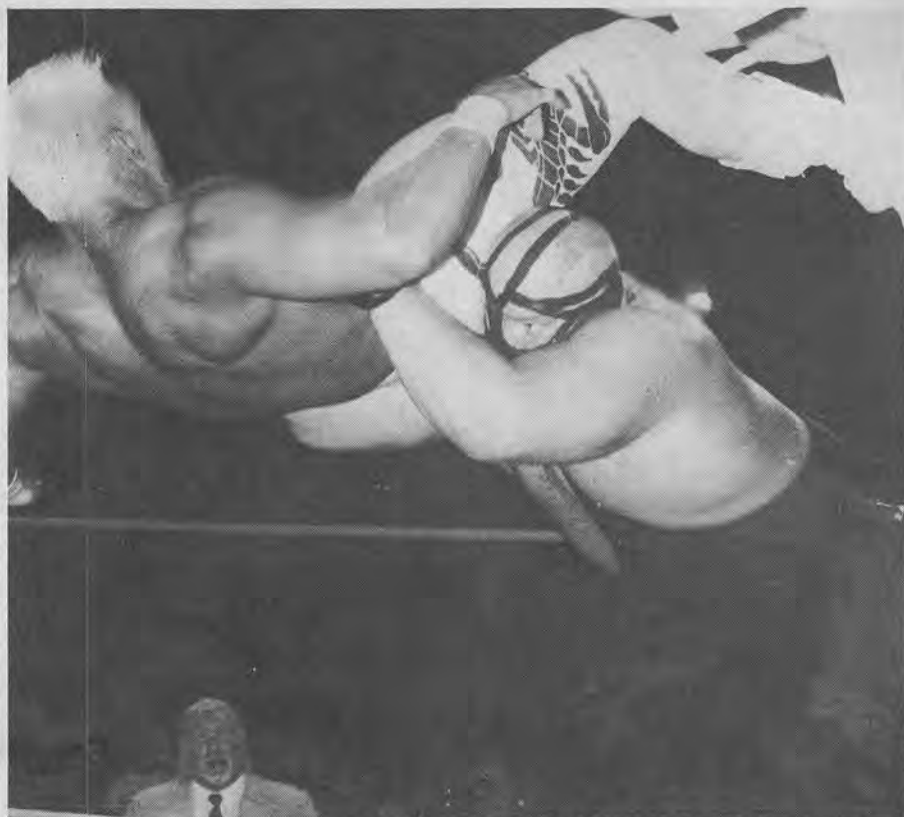


# INSIDE WRESTLING

197

## CAPSULE PROFILE

**B**IG VAN VADER is as versatile as he is massive (*"I'm a complete athlete"*) ... Enjoyed an outstanding football career at the University of Colorado, winning all-American honors at the offensive guard and center positions (*"Imagine getting pancaked by me"*) ... Played for the NFL's Los Angeles Rams from 1977-81 ... Was a sparring partner for former WBA heavyweight boxing champion Mike Weaver (*"I could've been champion myself if I'd wanted to"*) ... In 1985, began training for pro wrestling with Brad Rheingans (*"He's the best out there"*) ... Made his debut in the AWA, where he became known as the "Baby Bull" ... Feuded violently with Bruiser Brody after Brody broke his leg with a chair (*"Man, that guy was a wildman. Taught me what I had to do to survive in this sport"*) ... In 1986, toured Europe with the Catch Wrestling Association ... Became the first American to win the CWA heavyweight title when he defeated Otto Wanz in Denver in 1986 (*"I kicked his German butt all over the Rockies!"*) ... Won the belt from Wanz again in 1989, this time in Europe ... Defeated Shinya Hashimoto to win the vacant IWGP championship at a special Japan/USSR/USA tournament in Tokyo on April 24, 1989 (*"That began my*



Big Van Vader won his first American title when he beat Sting for the WCW World belt. Vader, a former All-American offensive lineman, has won titles on three continents.

*domination of Japan"*) ... Began wearing a mask that partially covered his face and sporting a grotesque metal head covering that spouted smoke on command (*"The tools of intimidation"*) ... At one time, held major heavyweight titles on three continents: the IWGP in Japan, UWA in Mexico, and CWA in Germany (*"That makes me a true world champion!"*) ... Feuded with Stan Hansen in Japan; they fought at WCW's Wrestle War '91 (*"Talk about a tough customer; that cowboy is lethal!"*) ... Became a three-time IWGP champion when he defeated Tatsumi Fujinami on January 17, 1991, in Yokohama, Japan ... When he returned to WCW, Harley Race became his manager (*"The man knows more about wrestling than any-*

*one alive"*) ... Teamed with Bam Bam Bigelow to capture the IWGP International tag title from The Great Muta and Hiroshi Hase on March 1 in Yokohama ... Began feuding with WCW World champion Sting (*"I knew winning that belt would be a cinch"*) ... On April 12, 1992, in Atlanta, gave Sting two cracked ribs and a bruised spleen (*"The pain game had begun"*) ... Convincingly captured the title from Sting at The Great American Bash in Albany, Georgia, on July 12 (*"Sting finally learned his lesson!"*) ... Was champion for only three weeks; Ron Simmons defeated him in Baltimore on August 2 (*"He didn't deserve that match, but I'm not complaining. I intend to get rematches and reclaim what is rightfully mine!"*)

## **CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP**



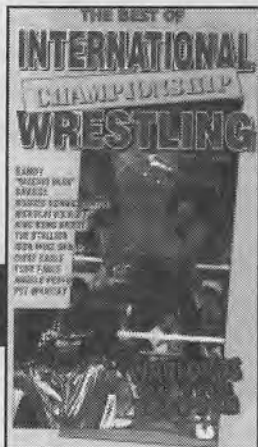
**BIG VAN VADER**



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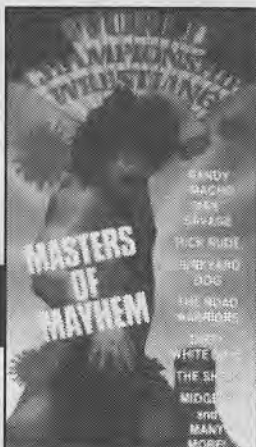
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## GREAT AMERICAN BASH '88 The Price for Freedom

The controversial Bash tour heats up with Ric Flair & Lex Luger in Baltimore. Also Rhodes vs. Windham for U.S. title; triple cage "Tower of Doom" featuring Russian Assassin I, Ivan Koloff, Perez, Rotundo, & Sullivan vs. Road Warriors, Garvins & Williams; Fantastics vs. Midnights; Blanchard & Anderson vs. Nikita Koloff & Sting. #132 / 126 min / **\$29.95**

## SUPERCLASH 85 - ROUND 1: Monsters Of The Mat Vol. 3

RARE!! Featuring: The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Freebirds for the AWA World Tag Team Championship. Also Little Tokyo vs. Little Mr. T for Midget's World Championship; Crusher Blackwell vs. The Ugandan Giant in a Bodyslam Match. #158 / 60min / **\$24.95**

## SUPERCLASH 85 - ROUND 2: Monsters Of The Mat Vol. 4

RARE!! Featuring: Boris Zuhov vs. Sergeant Slaughter; Mexican Heavyweight Championship: Mil Mascaras vs. Buddy Roberts; Tenryu, Baba, Tsuruta, vs. Harley Race and Long Riders; Kerry Von Erich vs. Jimmy Garvin with Valet Precious. #159 / 60min / **\$24.95**

## SUPERCLASH 85 - ROUND 3: Monsters of The Mat Vol. 5

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## EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ By John Buis



**PAPA SHANGO  
vs.  
ULTIMATE WARRIOR**



The Warrior stormed the ring, tearing into Shango, then clotheslining him over the top rope. Warrior followed by throwing him into the ringsteps and ringpost. Back in the ring, Warrior blasted Shango with an axhandle off the top rope. The voodoo practitioner fought back, stopping Warrior with nerveholds and knees to the midsection. He nearly scored the pin with a reverse backbreaker. Warrior won out in the end, pinning Shango following a clothesline and a big splash.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Intercontinental champion Bret Hart pinned Shawn Michaels ... Big Bossman beat Nailz by disqualification ... The Legion of Doom & Paul Ellering beat The Beverly Brothers & "Genius" Lanny Poffo ... The Mountie defeated Sgt. Slaughter by countout ... Tito Santana pinned Skinner.

## BINGHAMTON, NY By Dave Szymanak



**BRET HART  
vs.  
DAVEY BOY SMITH**



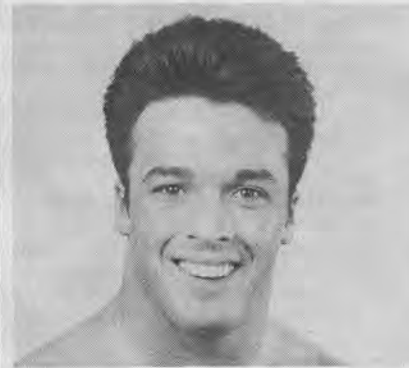
This was a classic scientific match. Smith began with a test of strength, then he used slams and suplexes to score several two-counts on the Intercontinental champion. "The Hitman" rallied, blasting Davey Boy with a powerful punch to the nose that caused Smith to bleed. This enabled Hart to pin Davey Boy with a reverse sunset flip. After the match, both men displayed characteristic sportsmanship, shaking hands just before they departed the ring.

**OTHER BOUTS:** The Beverly Brothers beat The Natural Disasters by countout ... High Energy beat Money Inc. by disqualification ... The Undertaker pinned The Mountie ... The Ultimate Warrior pinned Papa Shango ... World champion Randy Savage beat Ric Flair by disqualification.

## RICHMOND, VA By Robert Shook



**ARN ANDERSON  
vs.  
MARCUS BAGWELL**



This bout featured the veteran smarts of Anderson against the youth and enthusiasm of WCW rookie Bagwell. As it turned out, Arn controlled the bout. His experience was simply too much for Bagwell to handle. The youngster surprised Anderson a few times, but could never string together a series of moves. Anderson threw Bagwell into the ropes and pinned him following a devastating "gourdbuster."

**OTHER BOUTS:** Rick Steamboat pinned Cactus Jack ... Barry Windham beat Steve Austin ... Sting & Nikita Koloff defeated Rick Rude & Big Van Vader ... Ron Simmons defeated Super Invader ... Steve Williams & Terry Gordy beat Rick & Scott Steiner by disqualification.



# WRESTLING CAPITALS



## KANSAS CITY, MO By Kent Morrow



**BOBBY EATON**  
vs.  
**LARRY ZBYSZKO**



From the intensity of this battle, one would never know these men were once allies in The Dangerous Alliance. Paul E. Dangerously was in "Beautiful" Bobby's corner, rooting him on against the man he despises. Because these two former teammates know each other so well, the contest was very evenly contested. Eaton, the beneficiary of some timely interference by Paul E., scored the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** World tag team champions Terry Gordy & Steve Williams beat Rick & Scott Steiner ... Marcus Alexander Bagwell & Tom Zenk defeated The Freebirds ... Rick Steamboat pinned Cactus Jack ... TV champion Steve Austin pinned Barry Windham ... Dustin Rhodes & Ron Simmons beat Rick Rude & Super Invader.

## TELL CITY, IN By Bill Davis



**EDDIE GILBERT**  
vs.  
**RICK MORTON**



Gilbert's USWA title was on the line against the man who recently decided to re-form The Rock 'n' Roll Express with Robert Gibson. "Hot Stuff" tried to bully Morton at the outset, taunting him with vicious insults. Morton shot back with a few choice words of his own. What started as a wrestling match quickly turned into a brawl, with more kicks and punches than slams and suplexes. The fighting got so hot that both men got themselves disqualified.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Billy Travis defeated Mike Miller ... The Hornet beat Richard Lee ... Miss Texas beat Lauren Davenport & Candi Cane in a "tough gal" contest ... The Moondogs defeated Billy Travis & Jeff Jarrett.

## DALLAS, TX By Fred Lane



**JOHN TATUM**  
vs.  
**SKIP YOUNG**



Tatum came into this contest full of arrogance, and accompanied by his new manager, Gary Hart. Young, on the contrary, displayed a quiet confidence. Tatum attempted to use his size advantage to push Young around, but Skip's superior ring skills put him in great position for the win. However, Hart got involved and changed everything. The manager smacked Young with a loaded towel, allowing Tatum to score the pin.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Alex Porteau defeated Terry Simms ... Manuel Villalobos beat Mike Davis by countout ... Rod Price beat Scott Putski by disqualification ... "Rattlesnake" Jeff Raitz pinned Brian King ... Shawn Summers defeated Chaz ... The Ebony Experience beat Mike Davis & Jimmy James by countout.



# Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

**MEMPHIS, TN:** I'm shocked. The moment I heard the news that Jeff Jarrett planned to attend a WWF card, I knew there was only one place to be on August 9, 1992. To tell you the truth, the whole idea seemed like a longshot. Jarrett figured to be ignored or at least overlooked as another loudmouth at ringside who had too much to drink. Heck, there're enough of those around. Maybe yours truly would've turned out like one if not for this business. Anyway, the miracle happened, and even Intercontinental champion Bret Hart didn't ignore Jarrett. Maybe it was because he knew who Jarrett was from watching the USWA on TV. Despite its global spread and the hundreds of professional wrestlers who work in the U.S., the wrestling community is pretty tight-knit. Well, Jarrett challenged Hart, and Hart accepted. The WWF is scheduled to return to Memphis in October, and you can bet The Pyramid will be packed for the rarest of the rare, an inter federation match involving the WWF. Hard to believe. Of course, there are questions to be asked. Why did Jarrett make the move and challenge Hart on behalf of the USWA when Eddie Gilbert is the champion and Jerry Lawler is the federation's most famous wrestler? Heck, Lawler-Hart or Lawler-Savage would have been something for the pay-per-view numerologists (who are still scratching their heads from the Olympics Triplecast fiasco; good idea, guys). At this writing, Jarrett is ranked number four in the USWA, while Hart is number four in the world. Seems like a serious mismatch to me. Jarrett will get by early on emotion and the fans, but Hart's too much for him. Prediction: Hart by pinfall in less than 10 minutes. Of course, don't be surprised if several USWA mooks try to make names for themselves and interfere in the match. Yes, I'm talking about Gilbert.

**JOHNSON CITY, TN:** Okay, so Johnson City wasn't exactly the place to be on August 8, but at least I was in striking range of Memphis for the Jarrett-Hart tilt. There's plenty of news happening in the independent federations these days and some of the biggest news—espe-



**RICK MORTON & ROBERT GIBSON**

cially for those of you who used to be teeny-boppers—is the reunion of The Rock 'n' Roll Express. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson are back together again, capitalizing on nostalgia and people's emotions. Tonight I'm seeing far too many 21-year-old broads with tie-dyed headbands



**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**



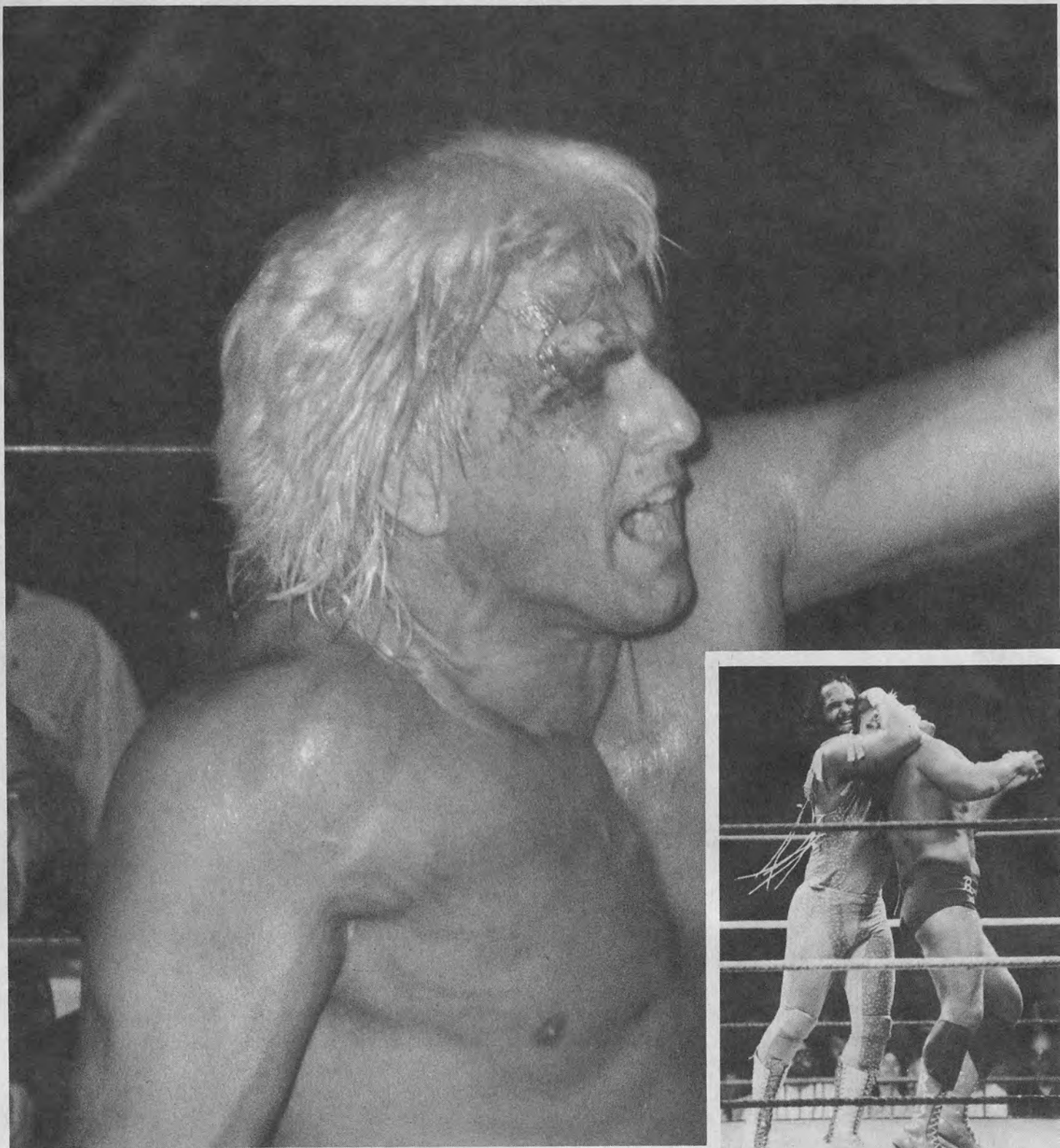
**RON SIMMONS**

and tie-dyed who knows what else. Morton and Gibson defeated Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden tonight, which is a nice win, but the teams they really need to beat are the teams I don't think they can beat: Smoky Mountain champs The Fantastics, and, in the USWA, Eddie Gilbert and Doug Gilbert. Maybe I'm bitter, because I was never very fond of this team (or that loud rock 'n' roll music, for that matter), but I think this is a pretty realistic view of the situation. Take it from one who's seen it all.

**BALTIMORE:** One comment and one comment only on Ron Simmons' victory over Big Van Vader for the WCW World title: Harley Race was right to complain. The fact that Vader kept silent doesn't mean he agreed with what happened. He just knew the tides had turned against him and the WCW powers-that-be were out for blood. Vader's title match that night should have been cancelled. Simmons is a fraudulent champion, but it's not

his fault either. Only a complete idiot would turn down a world title shot.

**RONCERVERTE, WV:** News item from the Water Park: Italian Stallion won a 10-man battle royal during which the other nine men had to be dumped into a nearby river to be eliminated. I've heard of toxic dumping, but this took it a little too far. I've always heard of wrestling, and this wasn't it. Whoever came up with this idea should be bound, gagged, and thrown into a nearby river. That would eliminate such stupid and sport-damaging ideas from ever surfacing again. It is absolutely mind-boggling to see how little faith promoters these days have in the sport itself: four corners, a mat, three ropes, and two or four men fighting for their lives using only their bodies and minds. Since when is swimming a necessary skill for wrestling? Since some promoter decided he had to find a way to sell tickets, that's when. □



**HEY,  
RIC  
FLAIR=**

**STOP WHINING**





**The WWF started Ric Flair yapping when it awarded the SummerSlam '92 World title shot to The Ultimate Warrior and not Flair. Flair hasn't shut up since**

By Kostya Kennedy

**W**HAT SEEMED LIKE a major slight at the time turned out to be not much of a big deal at all. Unless you're Ric Flair. It has since been proven to everyone that the WWF made a rare good decision. To everyone but Ric Flair.

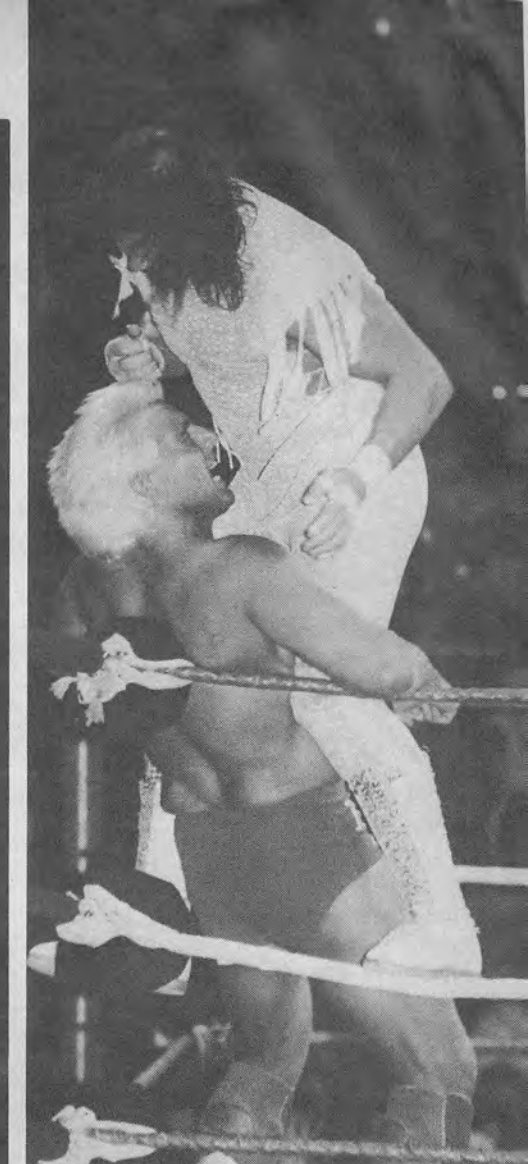
In the weeks approaching SummerSlam '92, wrestling fans eagerly anticipated the main event between WWF World champion Randy Savage and former champ The Ultimate Warrior.

• Ric Flair anticipated nothing.

In fact, while manager Curt Hennig played every single one of his cards and negotiated a management deal with both Savage and Warrior while still under contract to Flair, the entire world expressed its outrage. Then we all realized he couldn't be blamed.

The fault really belonged to Ric Flair.

The seven-time former NWA/WCW World champion and former WWF World champion has acted with anything but the



Flair is upset about not receiving the SummerSlam title match, but Savage has finished on top in most of their matches (above). The "Nature Boy," who once backed his words better than anyone in the sport, has been all talk and no action.

Since losing the WWF World title to Randy Savage at WrestleMania VIII (left), Ric Flair has done a lot more complaining than winning.

# AND START WINNING!



Flair has shown flashes in his bouts with Savage (above), but he hasn't gotten it all together in any one championship match.

proper decorum since entering the WWF last year. When he was passed over for the main event spot at SummerSlam '92, the wrestling world quickly found out Flair's greatest skill is whining, not winning.

"The guy just never shuts up," said a WWF rulebreaker who requested anonymity. "He acts like he's the only one who's ever been passed over for a title shot. Heck, there are at least 10 guys in this room that have been waiting for shots but never get them. Flair's had a ton."

That's right. Although the WWF passed over Flair for SummerSlam '92, it made a major—but laudable—gamble by granting Flair numerous shots at Savage leading up to the big event.

Flair, however, hasn't shut his mouth since June.

And he hasn't won too many

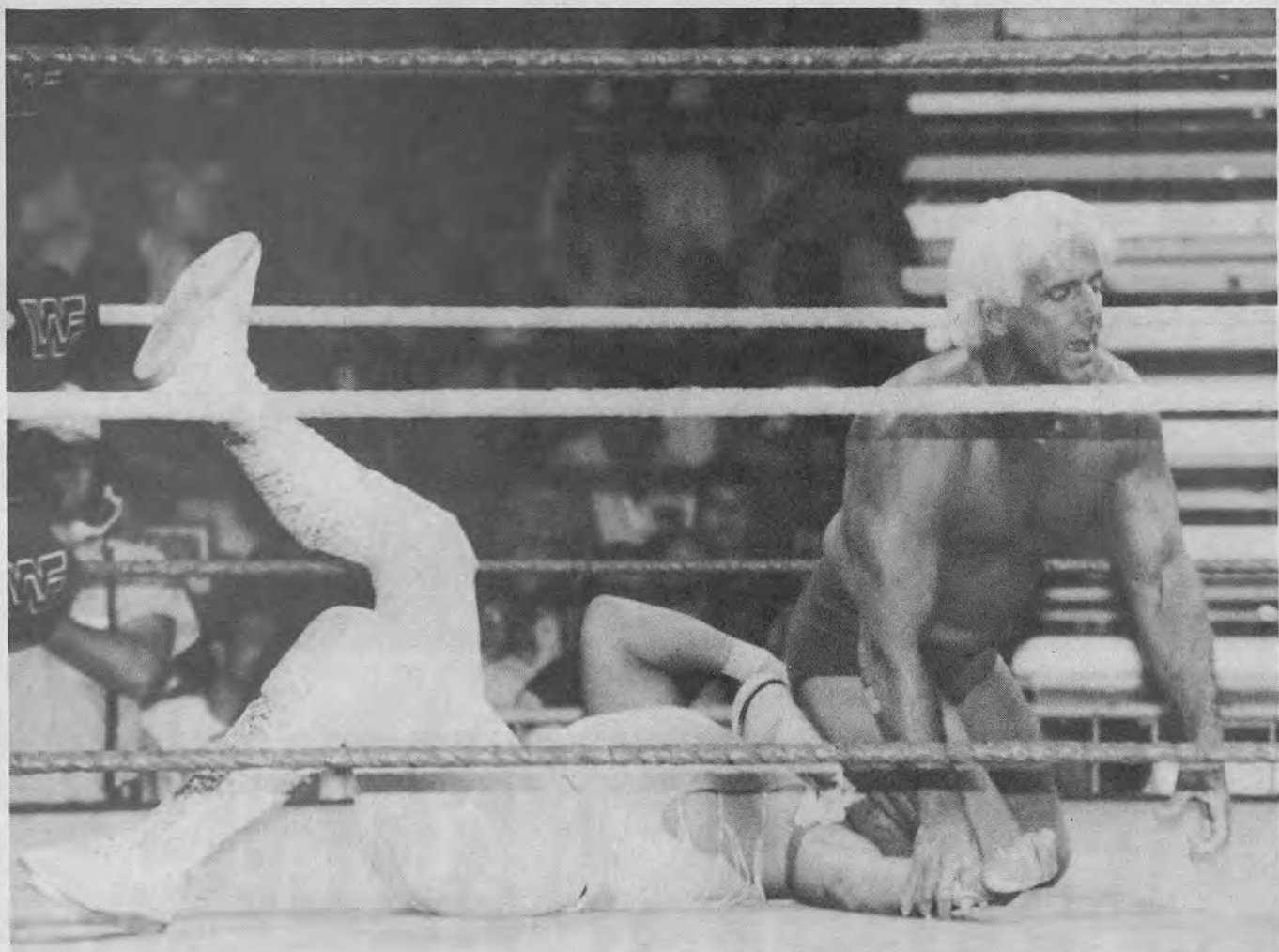
matches, either.

"Savage has absolutely dominated Flair," WWF expert Thomas Piliard said. "Most of their matches are ending with Savage pinning Flair, so it's not like there's any doubt about the results. I don't think people would've been too excited by a Flair-Savage SummerSlam match. It wouldn't have been special at all.

"The danger to Flair now is that he'll never get any more shots at Savage or the next champion," Piliard continued. "He hasn't performed well in the ring and he's alienated so many people. Believe me, the WWF Championship Board is a little upset with Flair. They think they've treated him fairly and they have."

*(Continued on page 62)*

The "Macho Man" has deftly avoided being pinned by Flair (below), who has often used foreign objects such as brass knuckles.





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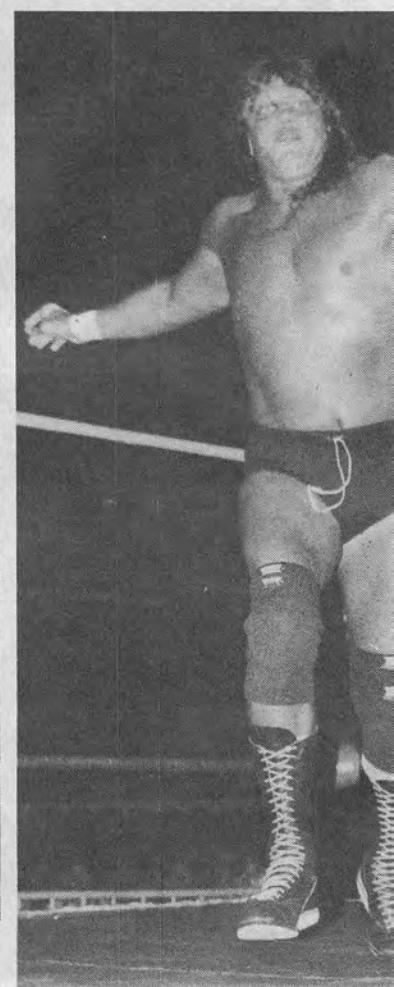
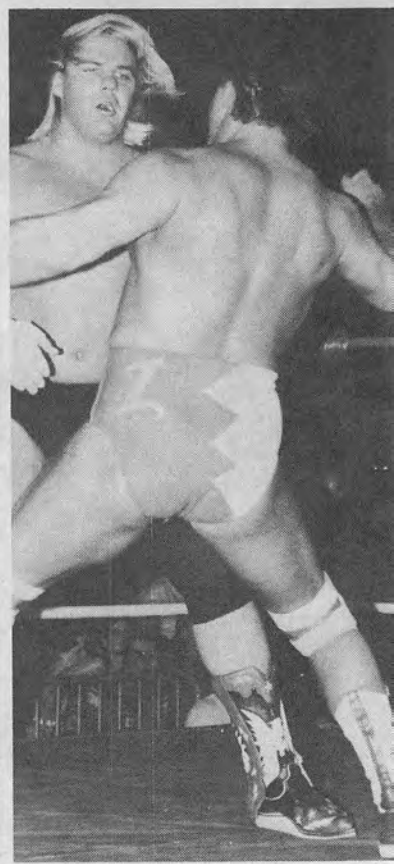
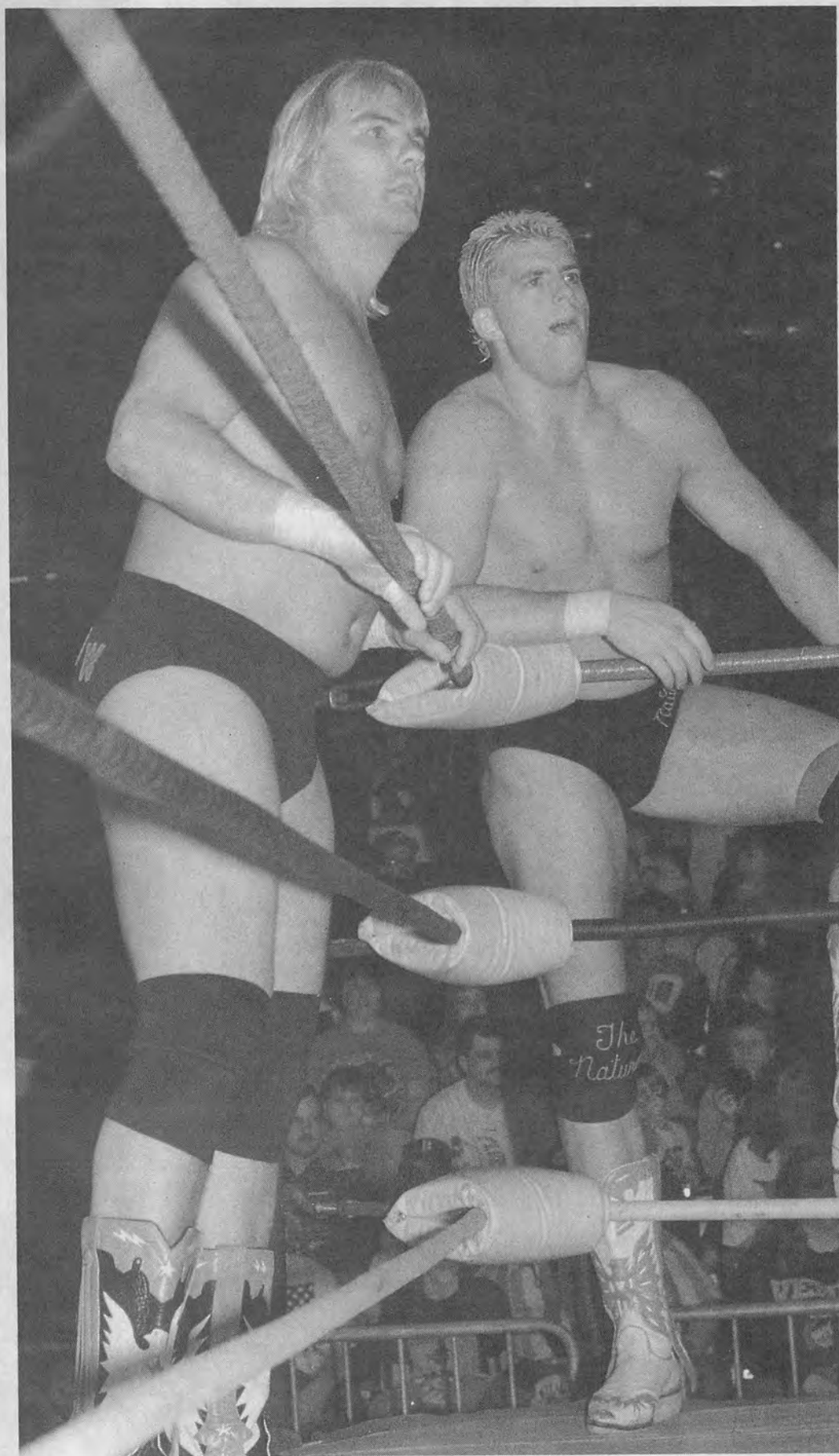
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Barry Windham and Dustin Rhodes (left) have had success as a tag team (above and below), but is their partnership getting in the way of possible singles titles?



# HOW FRIENDSHIP IS DESTROYING DUSTIN RHODES & BARRY WINDHAM

Dustin Rhodes and Barry Windham have had tremendous success as a tag team, but how long can their partnership last. Drifting back and forth between singles and tag teams in a never-ending effort to help each other, Windham and Rhodes are hurting themselves

By Dave Rosenbaum

**T**HEIR FATHERS DON'T like it. Rest assured that while WCW fans across the country are standing up and applauding the teaming of Dustin Rhodes and Barry Windham, two people who clearly disapprove are Dusty Rhodes and Blackjack Mulligan.

Papa Rhodes has seen both sides of Windham, the very good and the very bad. Turns out he's seen the very bad far too often to trust Windham any further than he can throw him (not too far).

"Hey, Dusty!" a reporter yelled out. "Whaddya think about your boy and Windham?"

No comment. A scowl. A turn of the back. A walk away from the reporter.

A reporter dials the phone. Blackjack Mulligan picks up the receiver.

"Hello, Blackjack," the reporter says. "How about your boy and Rhodes?"

Click.

Perhaps the proud fathers have a lot of trouble forgetting their own battles in the ring. Rhodes vs. Mulligan was never an easy match. Or perhaps we're forgetting one of the most important axioms of life in their time: Father knows best.

Look at WCW over the past few months and it's no surprise the best shot Rhodes and Windham had at the World title was when Sting pulled out of his match against Big Van Vader and eight names were thrown into a hat. Then Ron Simmons' name was pulled and Rhodes and Windham were left to each other.

That's not bad. At times it has been very good. Rhodes and Windham lost to Steve Williams and Terry Gordy in the final of the NWA World tag team tournament, but just getting to the final was a wonderful accomplishment for a recently re-

united tag team.

Recent victories over Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton and another team of Dick Slater and Greg Valentine show that Rhodes and Windham could have tremendous success as a team. They are not yet in the top 10 Tag Team ratings, but they're on their way.

That's what bothers us. They'll probably never make it. Before long, Rhodes and Windham will decide to return to singles competition. The tag team will be put on hold ... for a while. They'll get back together when some enemy attacks Rhodes or Windham.

"Listen, we're friends and we're trying to help each other," Rhodes said. "I don't think there's anything wrong with that. Heck, I'd think you people would call that admirable. Friendship is important, and my friendship with Barry means more than anything."

While laudable, those remarks are pretty easy to laugh at. First of all, this is wrestling, where friends become enemies on a moment's notice. Second of all, the sport is not about revenge and helping your partner. It's about winning titles.

In the case of Rhodes and Windham, it should be about winning singles titles.

Dusty Rhodes, while a fine tag team wrestler, was best on his own. He won three NWA World titles and will go down in history as one of the toughest wrestlers that ever lived. Heck, Dusty didn't need any help. Here's a guy who stood alone in the ring and challenged The Road Warriors. That's guts! (It's also stupid).

Blackjack Mulligan was also a good tag team wrestler, but he could handle his own business. A man who often acted on impulse, Blackjack couldn't afford to be dragged down by a partner who wasn't on his wavelength.

Their sons are also better individuals than partners. Barry Windham has taken champions to the limit. Dustin has moved up quickly



In a mild surprise, Windham (above) and Rhodes advanced to the final of the NWA tag team tournament. Rhodes (below) led the duo to wins over Arn Anderson and Bobby Eaton.







Windham (above) says he enjoys his friendship with Rhodes. But their friendship hasn't produced any victories over World champions Steve Williams (below) and Terry Gordy.

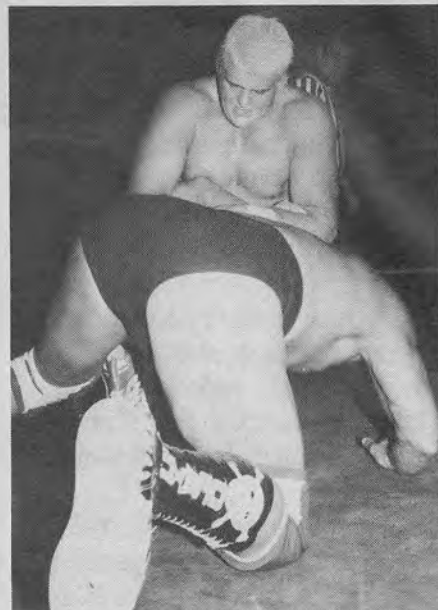


through the WCW rankings and is a feared wrestler.

"I think what's going on is pretty clear," said an anonymous WCW fan favorite. "Dustin and Barry were enemies for a while and now they're

trying to prove to each other, if not necessarily the world, that they're best of friends and can trust each other. Unfortunately, it's totally unnecessary."

When Larry Zbyszko broke Wind-



Could "The Natural" be enjoying this type of success as a singles wrestler? He'll never know unless he gives it his best shot.

ham's wrist, Dustin came to the rescue. They formed a tag team and fought evil. When Slater and Valentine attacked Dustin, Windham was on call. He and Dustin have since teamed to beat the stuffings out of Slater and Valentine.

Of course, it's easy to overlook the fact that Dustin has handled himself very well against Valentine in singles matches. He could surely do the same against Slater. Translation: Rhodes can handle his problems by himself. He doesn't need Windham's help.

If Windham and Rhodes seriously intended to shoot for the WCW World tag team title, we'd have no trouble with their partnership. Those belts are a worthy goal. But each time Windham and Rhodes team, it's for a purpose not related to championships or moving up the ladder of contention.

With their on-again, off-again partnership, Rhodes and Windham are dragging themselves down. The WCW World title picture is wide-open. Almost anyone could be the champ this week or next.

There's always room for friendship in wrestling. But there's no room for selflessness at the hands of accomplishment. For Rhodes and Windham, it just isn't working. □

**S**COTT HALL WAS an AWA World tag team champion. The Diamond Studd won no honors in WCW. Razor Ramon has yet to capture a title in the WWF.

If these were three different men, one may determine that Hall has been the most successful of the three. But as most wrestling fans know, Hall, Studd, and Ramon are three names for the same person.

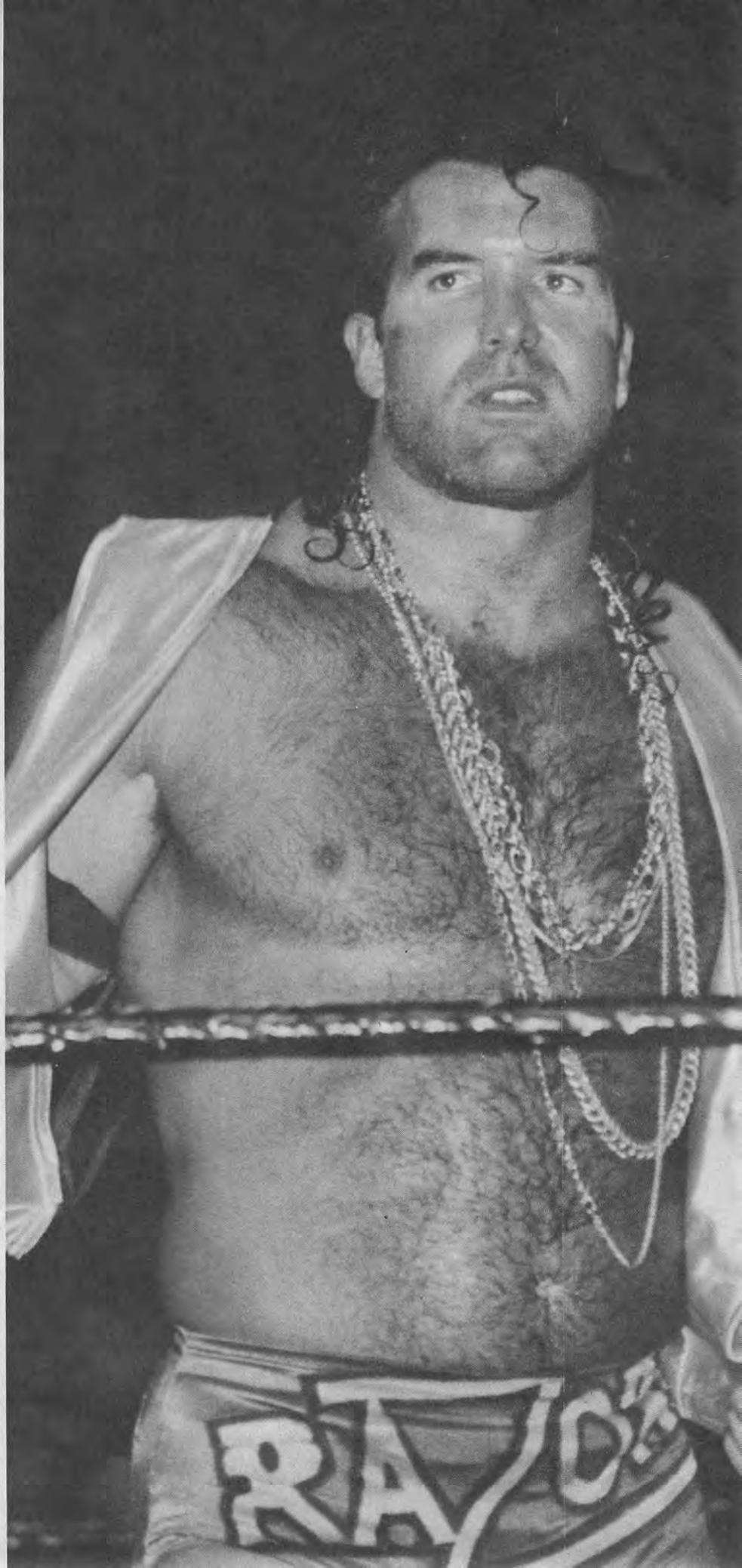
But in another sense, he really has been three separate people. Hall was the quiet, respectful Midwesterner determined to make good (and do so honorably) in the big leagues. Diamond Studd was the flashy, flamboyant rulebreaker who, despite "Diamond" Dallas Page's best efforts, quickly fizzled out in WCW.

Now Diamond Studd has become Razor Ramon, who represents the most drastic personality change yet. He claims to be from Cuba. He speaks with a Cuban accent. He ornaments himself with gold. He says he has come to America, the land of opportunity, to be a star in the WWF. He acts like a thug in the attempt to achieve his goal: the WWF World title.

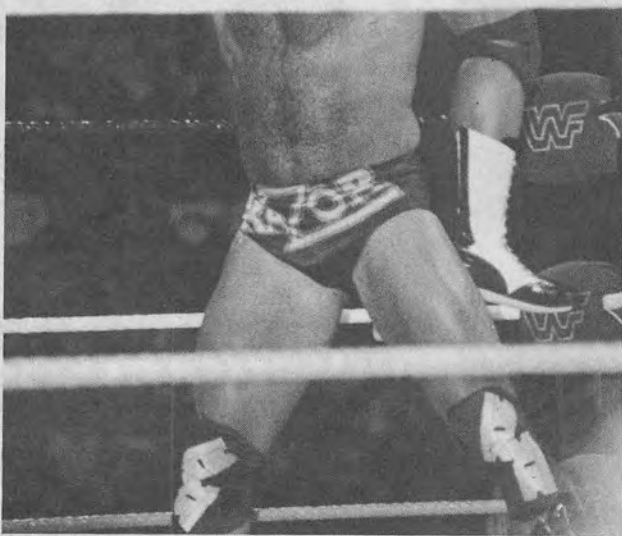
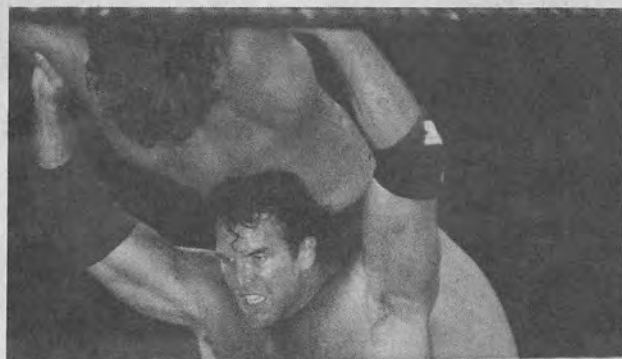
This latest incarnation of Hall may work. He has scored impressive wins over quality opponents such as Virgil and Tito Santana. After only a few months in the federation, he had received main-event matches. Here, finally, Ramon can say to himself, is the image that will take me to the top.

The image of The Diamond Studd did nothing for him, in his view. At first, with Page as his manager, Studd seemed to be ready to make that break into the big time. But again, he didn't come through on his promise, and he left the federation.

Before entering the WWF, Hall had convinced himself to make







*Razor Ramon lives by the rule of the street: If you want something, take it. He doesn't apologize for who he is. But who is he? His transformation from Scott Hall to The Diamond Studd to Razor Ramon is a remarkable study in how far a man will go to change his luck*

Razor Ramon (left) has undergone an image transplant, hoping that being a different wrestler will bring different results. Ramon has always been considered a competitor who did not live up to his potential.

## RAZOR RAMON TRADES IN HIS

# DIAMONDS FOR GOLD



"Today, I still see a man with world championship talent," Gagne added, "but with the wrong attitude, a horrible attitude. He has all that potential, but he's channeling it in the wrong direction."

*Potential.* That word has haunted the 6'8", 291-pounder since his early days in the sport. He's sick of hearing about how much of it he possesses. He wants results and he wants them now. "Potential" is for losers.

Hall, and Hall as Studd, may have allowed that "potential" label to be applied to them, but Ramon certainly will not. As soon as he wins a championship, he'll erase that label completely.

At 6'8" and 291 pounds, Ramon is a huge brawler with awesome strength. He simply takes whatever he wants, and what he now wants is the WWF World heavyweight title.

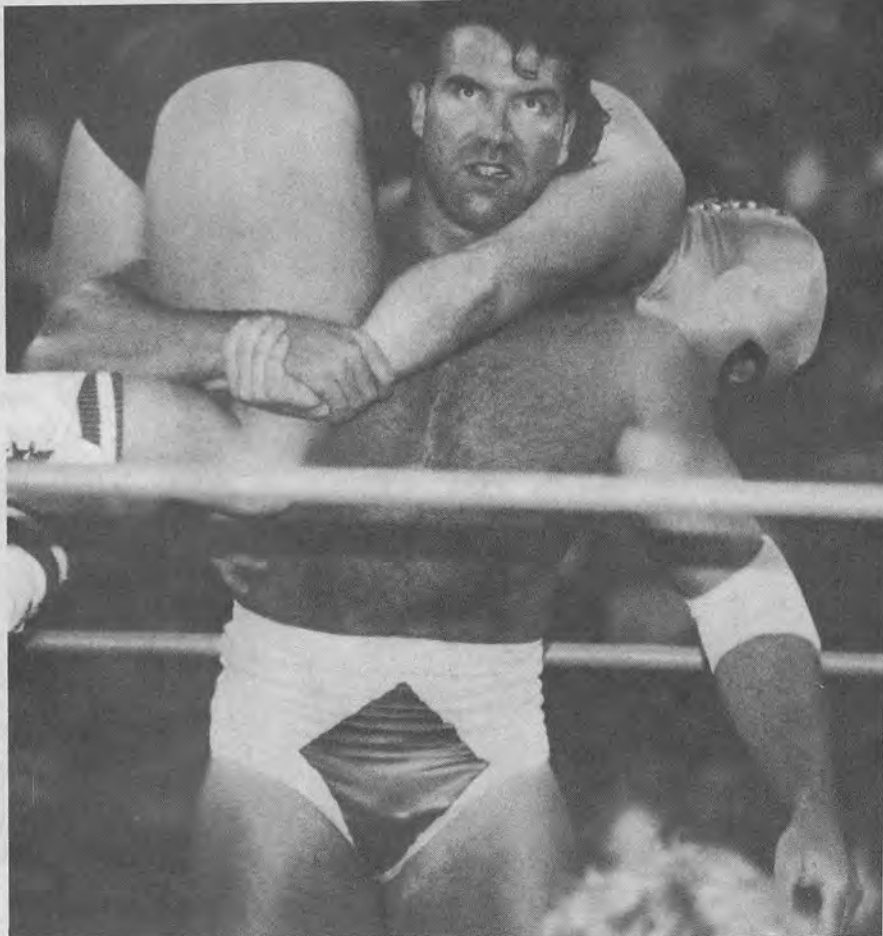
the sharp, dramatic change to Ramon. He felt he had to break away completely from his past. He could not be bound by images that didn't work for him.

So Razor Ramon was born.

"He felt he had to do this," said a friend not in the wrestling business. "It's quite a change, isn't it? It's almost like he's a brand-new person. He's wrestling with a new purpose, a new intensity. Those of us who've known him for a long time are glad that, this time, a title might come his way."

Others are less understanding. Greg Gagne, who remembers a young Hall breaking into the AWA, says he can't comprehend why Hall needs to make these changes.

"He is a fine athlete," Gagne said. "I mean, an outstanding athlete. When he was a rookie, I looked at him and decided this was a man who would win a world title someday. I truly believed that.





It has gone beyond a quest for titles. Ramon even feels confident enough to take on a powerful WWF figure like Savage. In a score of interviews, he has claimed to be the only "Macho Man" in the WWF.

"That's a bold claim," said Gagne. "If his aim was to get attention, then he certainly did that. I didn't think he'd be dumb enough to go after Savage, though. I thought maybe he'd bide his time a little and work his way into contention. Obviously, he's chosen another route."

Ramon expects the wrestling world to owe him favors. He acts as though it is his birthright to be awarded title shots without earning them. All this simply because he is Razor Ramon.

"This guy walks in here and thinks he owns the place," said one WWF rulebreaker. "And it's the promoters' fault for giving him these important matches. I've always expected them to play favorites, but not with somebody like Ramon, who hasn't done nearly enough to warrant this kind of recognition. He's good; I'm not denying it. But let's have some consideration for the guys who've been here for much longer."

To Ramon, that's pure jealousy, the sort of which he joyfully disregards. He bathes in the heat of the spotlight, and to heck with everyone else. But what if Ramon fails? Will Scott Hall envelop himself in yet another image?

"That's the problem with the guy," Gagne offered. "This is nev-

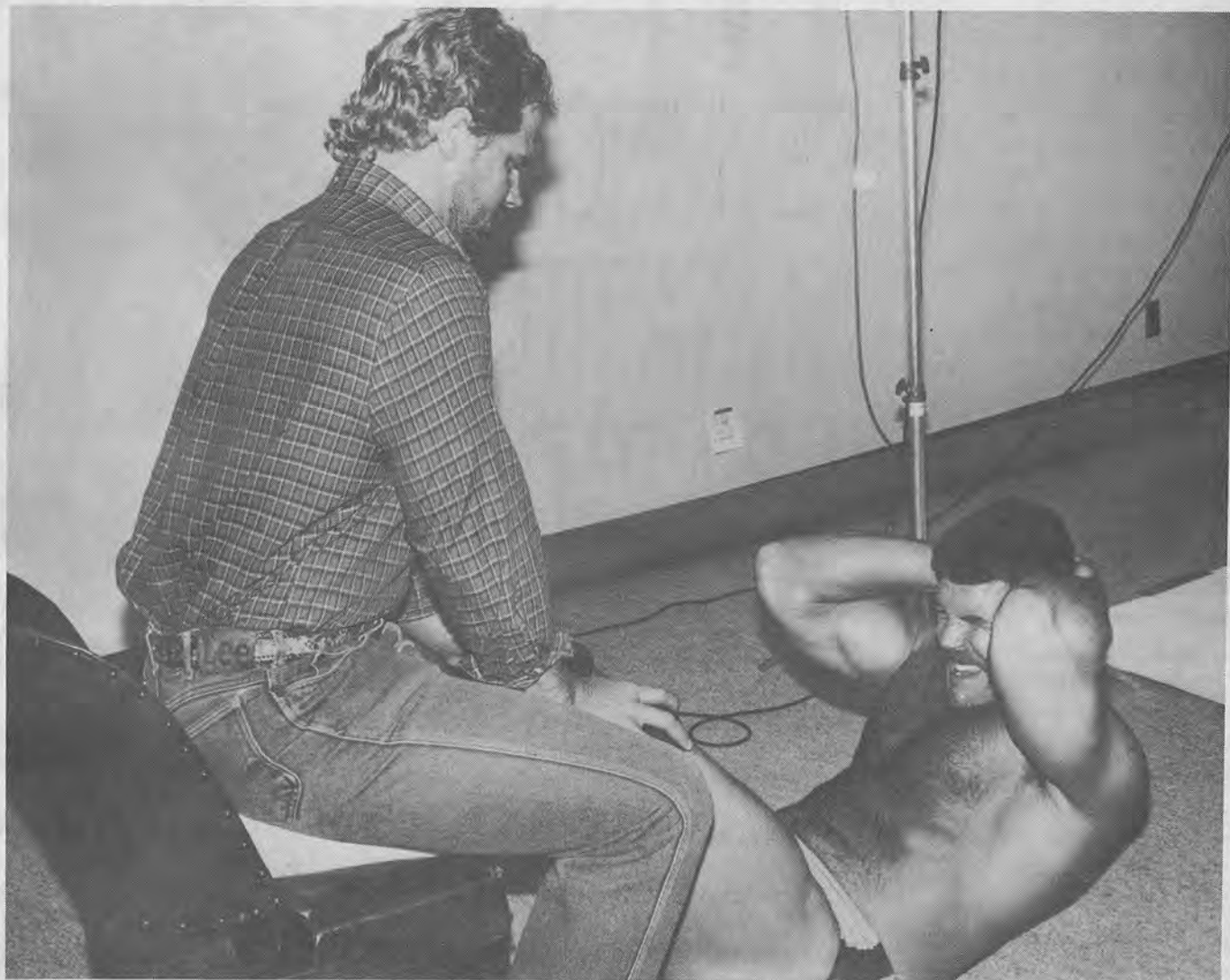
er going to end for him. If he's not Ramon, he'll be somebody else. He'll just keep searching for something he can only find if he deals with who he *really* is. And it doesn't look like he's willing to do that."

Ramon's friends have developed a forceful defense of his actions.

"It's way too early to deal in hypotheticals," said one. "He may be a champion by the time these words reach print. He's completely focused on what he needs to do to become a winner. The Razor Ramon you see today is the same man you'll see in a year."

Ramon's new name and image may be helping him today, but he should remember this:

The razor's edge cuts both ways. □



During Hall's days in the AWA, he was a partner of Curt Hennig as AWA World tag champions. As Ramon, he has caught the eye of Hennig, considered one of the top managers in the WWF.

Rogers: Yes!

## Who Needs The Confusion?

"Realistically, we cannot continue to use the NWA name when the promotion itself does not. As time goes by and more and more fans are introduced to this organization, the WCW name will become more and more prominent." —*From The Desk Of Stu Saks, Pro Wrestling Illustrated, August 1991*

**B**REAKING WITH tradition is not something we do well. When the NWA became WCW, *Inside Wrestling* and its family of magazines did not change with them. For the better part of a year, we continued to refer to the newly named WCW as the NWA.

We were not happy that the Ted Turner-owned World Championship Wrestling was unable to strike a deal with the promoters who owned the rights to the name National Wrestling Alliance. WCW's leaders were intent on making sweeping changes, and as well-intentioned as they were, we felt they were making a big mistake in eradicating the rich history of wrestling's oldest federation.

We stood firm. But we soon found ourselves in a minority of one.

# WHY REVIVING THE NWA TITLE WAS A BAD IDEA

**In an effort to move forward, WCW  
spent more than two years  
eradicating the memory of the NWA.  
By holding NWA tournaments,  
however, the federation has gone  
back to the future. In a sport that  
already has too many initials, WCW  
was wrong in adding three more**



The new initials were everywhere—logos, letterheads, advertisements, television shows. The only two places where the old initials were still seen were on the federation's championship belts (temporarily) and the pages of our maga-



*Chono: No!*

*Flair: Yes!*

zines. As far as WCW was concerned, NWA was a rap group from Compton, California.

After many hours of discussing our philosophical differences, our staff reached an agreement. In the spring of 1991, we submitted to the federation's "media deathlock." On these pages, the NWA finally became WCW.

We surrendered to the present and future, hoping for the best. However, we would not let go of the past. Lou Thesz never wrestled for WCW. Neither did Frank Gotch. Or Ed "Strangler" Lewis. These great men were NWA World champions. Heck, they were the NWA.

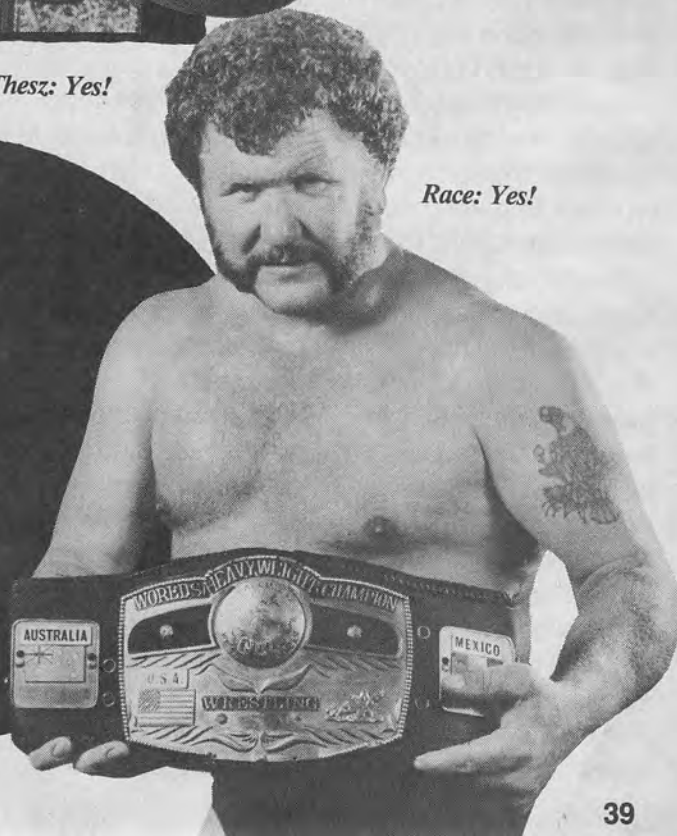
It became very simple. Whoever won the title during the period prior to 1991 was an NWA World champion. Whoever won the title after that was a WCW World champion.



*Thesz: Yes!*



*Race: Yes!*





When Jack Brisco won the NWA World title in 1973, he did so by pinning champion Harley Race, not by winning a tournament.

As long as the title lineage remained complete, we didn't care if the folks at One CNN Center called their federation the French Foreign Legion.

According to federation lore, Ric Flair became the first WCW World champion when he dethroned Sting on January 11, 1991, in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Flair had already won six NWA World titles. His victory over Sting made him, in the least cumbersome fashion, a seven-time World champion of NWA/WCW.

In effect, WCW had become wrestling's Dodgers, who relocated from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 1958. Its roster had remained the same, but its

name had changed. Despite the change in initials, the federation's title lineage could still be traced back to its inception.

Over the next year, WCW became easier to say, easier to type, easier to acknowledge. Our magazines, which once stood in the face of change, had helped to make the transition complete.

Then came the summer of 1992, and with it a pair of ambiguous events known as the NWA World tag team and singles tournaments. WCW, the federation that risked offending its past champions and loyal fans with its name change, announced that it had



The initials NWA have always connoted the scientific mat style, as exhibited by Dory Funk in this 1969 draw with Mil Mascaras.

reached an accord with the NWA and would be promoting the international tournaments in conjunction with the New Japan organization.

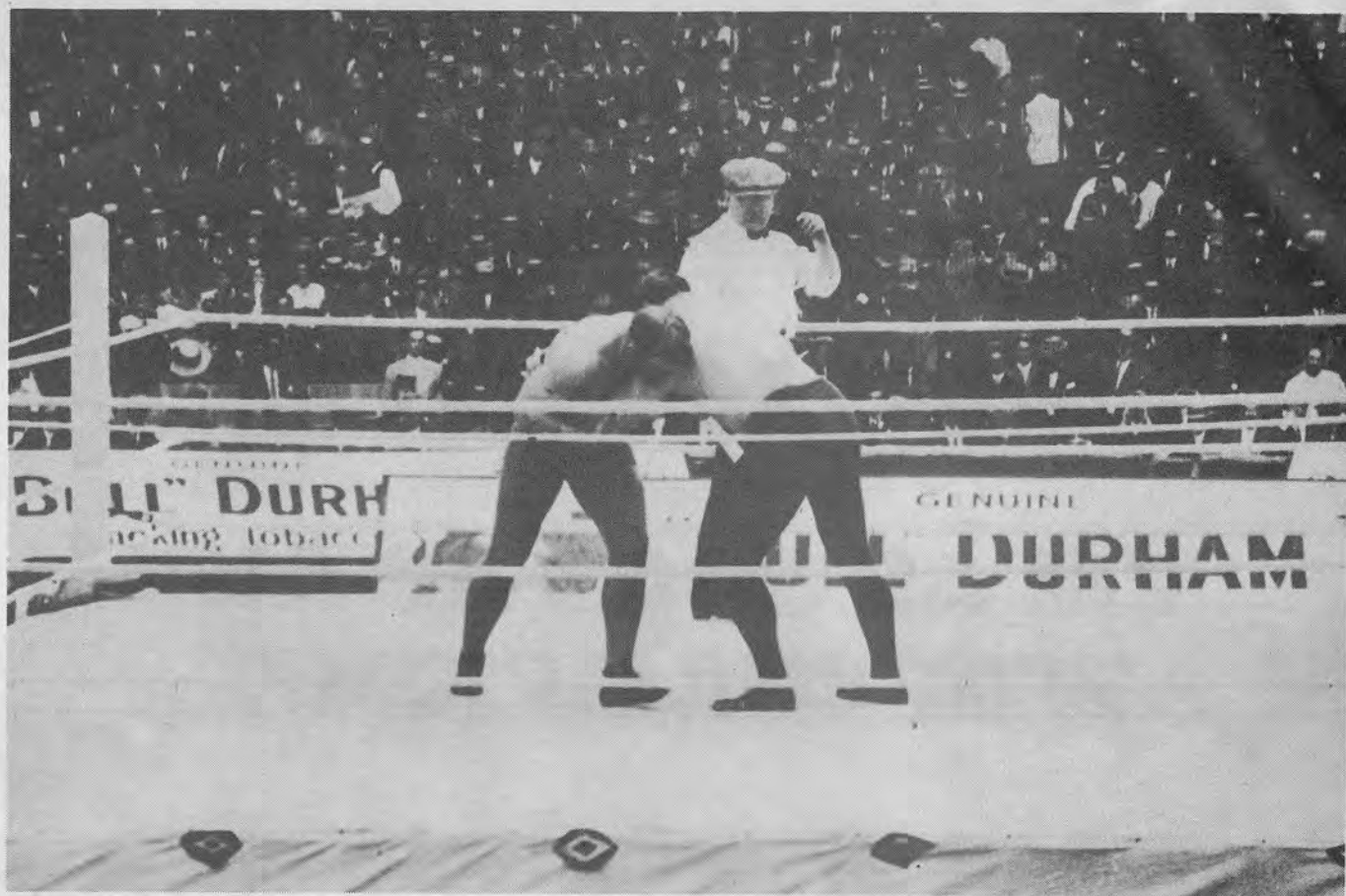
For brevity's sake, we will ignore the tag team tournament (won by Steve Williams and Terry Gordy) and examine the 16-man singles tourney, which was won by Masa Chono on August 12 in Tokyo, Japan. Some say Chono is simply the winner of a prestigious tournament. Others insist that Chono is the NWA World champion. This raises a number of very important issues.

The NWA World champion became WCW World champion when the federation changed

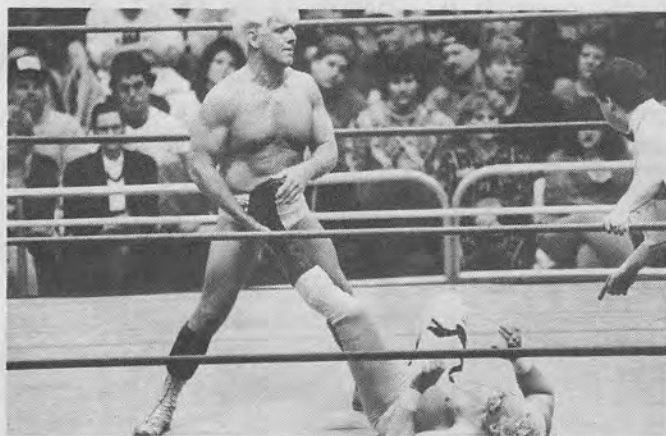
initials. The federation itself made a concerted effort to keep its title lineage intact. The initials may have changed, but Ron Simmons wears the same belt (figuratively, at least) in 1992 that Lou Thesz wore in 1952. Given that, Chono cannot be considered NWA World champion in the historical sense. To call him NWA World champion can only serve to cloud a situation that took two years to uncloud.

Back to baseball. In 1961, the original Washington Senators skipped town and became the Minnesota Twins. To replace the Senators, our nation's capital was given an expansion team, which was promptly





The NWA World title lineage goes back to the turn of the century. Frank Gotch beat George Hackenschmidt in this 1911 match (above). Ric Flair (below left) was the first WCW champion in 1991.



named the Washington Senators. That team later became the Texas Rangers. When the Twins won the 1991 World Series, fans in Texas did not celebrate. The champion's lineage stretched to the original Washington Senators. Chono's NWA World championship has no affiliation to the traditional NWA that became WCW in 1990.

A tournament that showcases the talents of stars from all over the world is a splendid idea, and we laud the NWA, WCW, and New Japan for their cooperative effort. And we must be careful to take nothing away from Chono. To win the tournament, he had to defeat Tony Halme, Scott Norton, The Great Muta, and Rick Rude. We'll call



him NWA champion because that is the title he won. But this article will be the last time we call him NWA *World* champion. To do otherwise wouldn't be fair to the 45 men who are in the

Masa Chono's NWA tournament victory over Rick Rude shouldn't be downplayed, but it does not make him World champion.

NWA/WCW championship lineage, and it would make a confusing situation that much more confusing. □

# HOTSEAT

## JEFF JARRETT

### "I'M AS GOOD AS ANY WWF CHAMPION!"

**A**LL ALONG, JEFF Jarrett has said that he's just trying to prove a point. However, his steadfast conviction is about to produce one of the biggest stories—and biggest matches—of 1992.

For years, this second-generation star has been quite vocal about how this country's biggest federation, the WWF, has failed to recognize the champions and wrestlers of other federations—including his own USWA. So it was on the August 8 edition of USWA Championship Wrestling on Memphis' WMC-TV that Jarrett once again used an interview as a platform for what he considered an injustice.

"The WWF is coming to the new Pyramid arena in Memphis tomorrow night," said Jarrett to the shocked audience. "Well, I'll be there, too. The way I figure it, I've got plenty of reasons to be there."

Little did anyone know what Jarrett's true intentions were. At that card, Jarrett and his father, USWA promoter Jerry Jarrett, sat in the second row, but it wasn't long before Jeff stunned the crowd by grabbing the house microphone and challenging Intercontinental champion Bret Hart to a match. Shockingly, Hart accepted the

challenge—and the first bout between a WWF champion and a wrestler from another federation in nine years was born.

Managing Editor Bob Smith caught up with Jeff in Memphis in late-August as he prepared for his October I-C championship bout against Hart.

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I was really sick of the way  
the WWF has ignored other  
federations.

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**Q:** Jeff, it's been a shocking year in wrestling, but I never dreamed that Bret Hart would defend his Intercontinental title against a star from the USWA—especially yourself, another scientific wrestler.

**A:** Yes, Bob, it's really an exciting time for everyone in the USWA, and it's a dream come true for me. But, if you really think about it, it's not really all that surprising a situation.

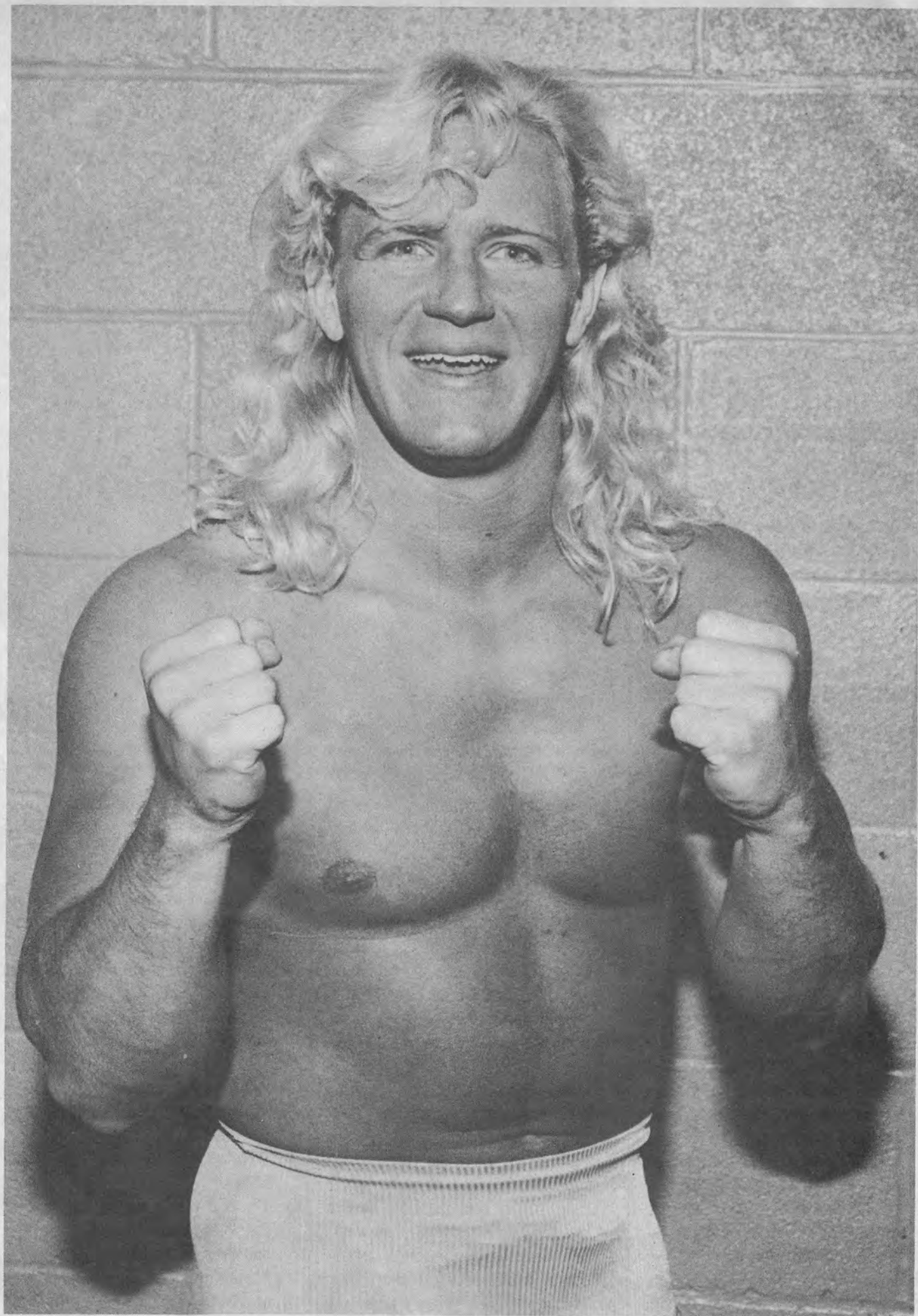
**Q:** What do you mean?

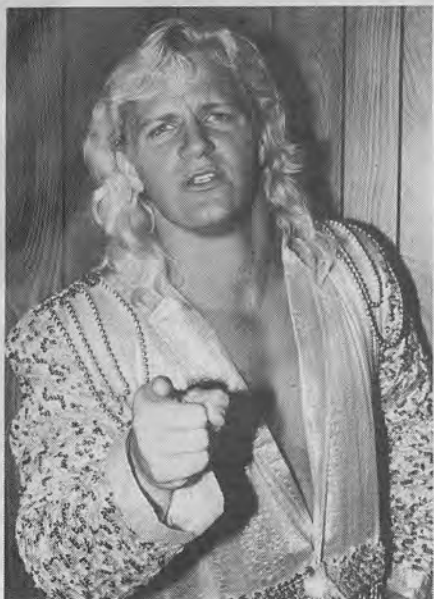
**A:** Well, getting the match against Hart was a lot easier than I anticipated. When I entered The Pyramid, I almost thought that the WWF security force would toss me out of the arena. Then, when I jumped over the railing and made my announcement to the crowd, I really thought they'd cart me out of there. That's when I discovered exactly why no wrestlers from other federations have ever taken on WWF champions—nobody ever asked!

**Q:** That's probably true, but I think the way you handled yourself helped your cause a great deal. You're a true professional, and they knew you weren't there to attack anyone, such as the way Jake Roberts recently attacked Sting in WCW.

**A:** I guess my reputation *did* precede me, and that helped. But when I went to The Pyramid, it was the culmination of years of anger. You see, I was really sick of the way the WWF has ignored other federations for years. The USWA has a roster of wrestlers every bit as good as the WWF, in my opinion. And







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I had to convince everyone that I was a good wrestler, that I wasn't riding on my father's coattails.

”

I truly believe that I'm as good as any WWF champion. Now, I'm going to get my chance to prove it, and it's a chance that's long overdue.

**Q:** I can't think of many wrestling fans that would disagree with that. But were you shocked at how even-tempered Hart was when you made your challenge? After all, he was there to defend his championship against Kamala that night. He didn't even know that you were going to be in the building.

**A:** Well, Bret's another great pro, and a real credit to this sport. He proved that when he's challenged, he's man enough to accept it. In a way, it's kind of a shame that he's the man who is going to have to lose his title to a USWA wrestler. But that's the way it's going to be. You see, when I get into the ring against Hart, I'll be carrying the aspirations and hopes of all the



Before Jerry Lawler and Jeff Jarrett teamed up, The Moondogs had a stranglehold on the USWA tag team title. But the squads have traded the belts back and forth in recent months.

Memphis fans with me. We're all tired of being considered second-class citizens down here. We've got myself, Jerry Lawler, Robert Fuller, Eric Embry, Bill Dundee, Tony Anthony, Tommy Rich, and Brian Christopher. That's a talent roster as strong as any federation anywhere. Just because the USWA doesn't promote in every state doesn't mean the fans in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Indiana haven't been seeing great wrestling for years.

**Q:** You keep talking about the USWA, but there has to be a personal motive here as well. In the past, you've told me how hard it was to build a reputation for yourself, since you're the son of a famous promoter and former wrestler.

**A:** That's very true. When I began my

career, I had to convince everyone that I was a good wrestler, that I wasn't riding on my father's coattails. Then, after I accomplished that, I had to prove I was championship material. Now I want to show fans all over the country that my skills are every bit as good as those of Hart, or Randy Savage, or anyone else in *any* federation, not just the WWF.

**Q:** That leads me to my next question. Why didn't you challenge Savage for the World title instead of Hart for the I-C belt?

**A:** Well, Savage wasn't there that night.

**Q:** That's a pretty convenient answer.

**A:** Hey, that's the truth! If Savage had been in the building that night, I would've challenged him instead of Hart. Why should I strive for





the WWF's second-best title when I could go for a World title? But, like I said, he wasn't there. Plus, the fans in Memphis had seen Jerry Lawler beat Savage many times in the past, so there wasn't really as much to prove.

**Q:** Are you saying that Lawler is still a better wrestler than Savage—and that you could beat the “Macho Man”?

**A:** Bob, I don't like to brag. But I think the fans here would answer both those questions in the affirmative.

**Q:** Speaking of the Memphis fans, they've watched you team with Lawler to battle Richard Lee's Moondogs for most of the past six months. During that time, these matches have turned into all-out wars, with both teams using everything from—and I say this in the literal sense—kitchen sinks to battery acid to trying to maim each other. Will you be ready for a wholly scientific star such as Hart after battling those carnivorous mongrels for so long?

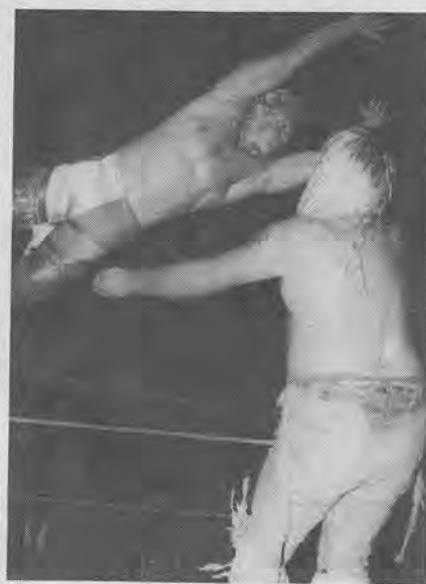
**A:** That's a fair question. Sure, I've been using tactics against The Moondogs that I'm not too proud of using. And it all *has* made me question what I'm all about in this sport.

**Q:** That's for sure. When I interviewed you for a recent article (*Wrestling Superstars*, December

1992), you said you were even having nightmares about the situation.

**A:** That's right. I didn't train with my father for years to end up beating guys over the head with stop signs every night. But Jerry Lawler has really helped me come to grips with the situation. He showed me that if it wasn't for us trying to rid the USWA of The Moondogs, they'd still be running rampant over this federation, crippling wrestlers left and right. Well, the hospitals aren't getting as many stretchers lately, and the fans can thank me and Jerry for that.

Jarrett has locked up with Eddie Gilbert in pursuit of the heavyweight title (left). He has used more than his scientific skills in his brutal wars against The Moondogs (below).



**Q:** Now, however, you're preparing to take on Bret Hart, a whole different kind of wrestler. Would you call this the biggest match of your career?

**A:** Interesting. (pauses) Well, the match I had against Eric Embry at Super Clash III was a big match back in 1988. And I had matches against Jerry for the USWA title that were very important. But, yes, I guess this *is* a very big match for me. And even if Hart loses the I-C title to Davey Boy Smith at SummerSlam, it's still my biggest challenge ever.

**Q:** Even with no title on the line?

**A:** That's exactly right. You see, this means more than simply winning



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This is more than wrestler vs. wrestler—this is federation vs. federation.

”

another belt to me. This is every independent federation rising up to challenge the WWF, and it feels great. This is every great wrestler who never had the opportunity to take on Hulk Hogan, Randy Savage, or Bret Hart, who dreamed of the chance, but knew he'd never get it. This is more than wrestler vs. wrestler—this is federation vs. federation. This is my opportunity to show the world that bigger isn't necessarily better.

**Q:** I'm sure the entire wrestling world is looking toward this match with great anticipation. Jeff, I say this often, and I'll say it again: You're the last of a dying breed, the last wrestler I know of who has tried to stay scientific as much as possible. Do you ever regret that decision?

**A:** Are you kidding? My being who I am has kept the fans behind me for seven years—and I'll never do things any other way. □

# THE HELLISH LIFE OF THE HEAVENLY BODIES

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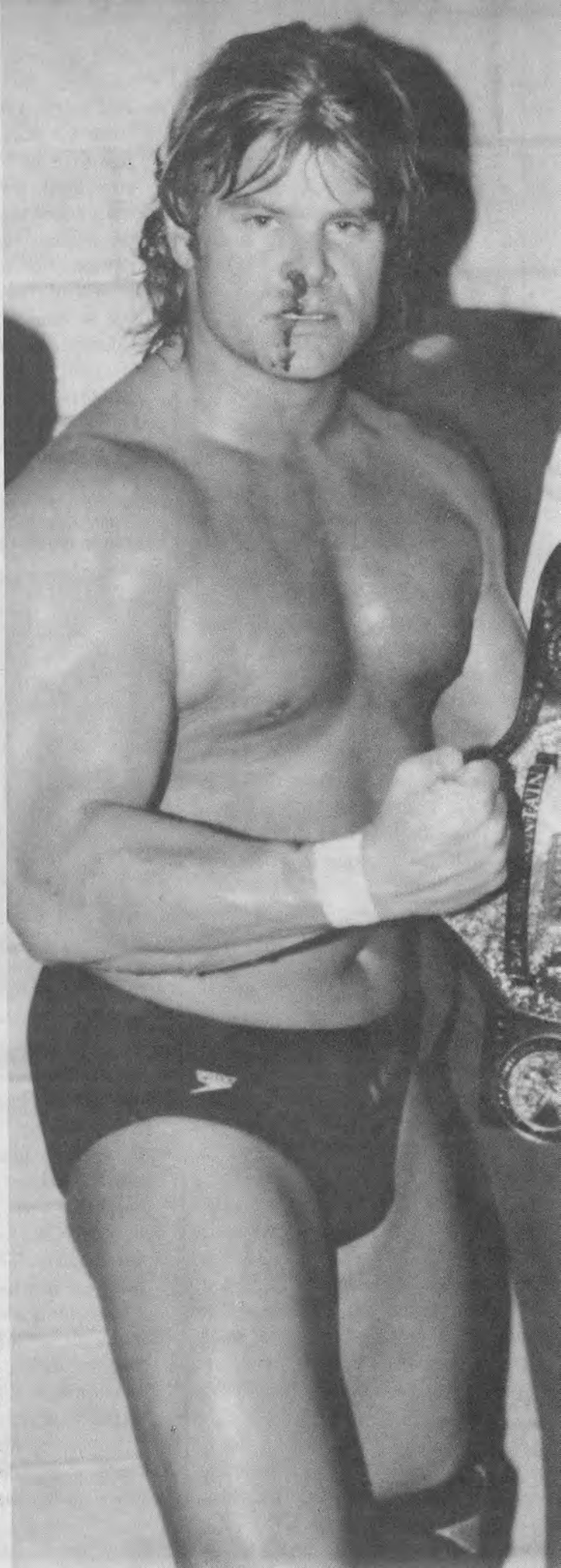
**Jim Cornette's promise to The Heavenly Bodies was that he would make them as rich and famous as The Midnight Express had been. Now, Cornette is rediscovering just how tough life at the top can be when everyone is gunning for you**

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By Andy Rodriguez

**T**HE EXPERIENCE WAS one Jim Cornette did not want to relive. But here he was, seeing it all over again: a team he managed losing a tag team title to a team called The Fantastics.

On August 8 in Johnson City, Tennessee, The Fantastics of Jackie and Bobby Fulton defeated The Heavenly Bodies—Tom Prichard and Stan Lane—to win the Smoky







Mountain tag team belts. In 1988, The Fantastics of Bobby Fulton and Tommy Rogers bested his duo of The Midnight Express to win the NWA U.S. tag belts.

The dreaded Fantastics, the hated Fantastics, had defeated and humiliated him and his men for a second time. They weren't even the same Fantastics, but that mattered little to Cornette.

"I can't believe this!" he said, more with resignation than surprise. "Lose to The Fantastics again? It's almost unfair. I thought I was done with those boys back in '88. It's all coming back now."

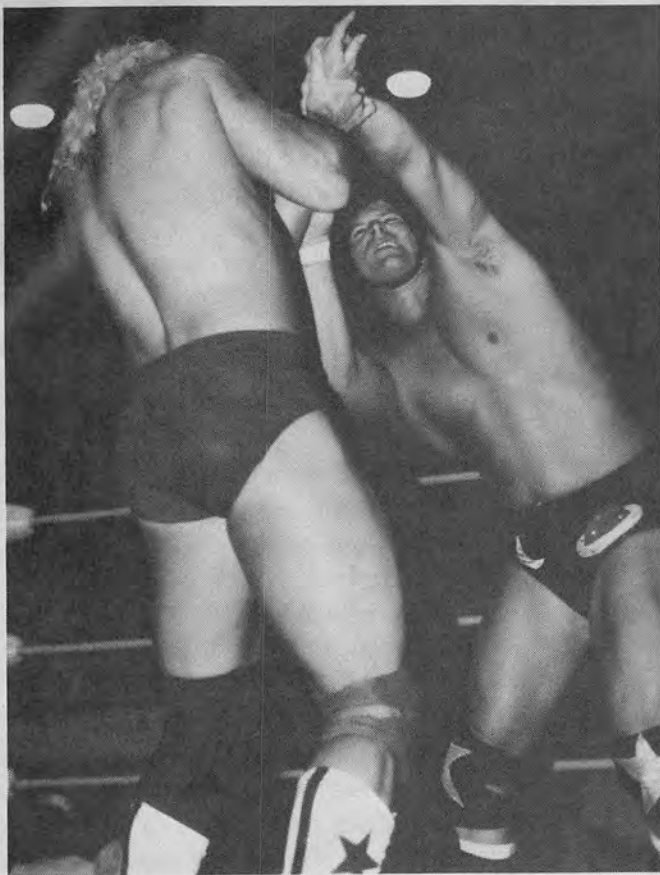
Cornette likes to whine. Complaining about this or that wrestler, referee, or issue is standard operating procedure for the tennis racket-wielding manager.

However, this time, there was something different about the tone of his complaints. He truly seemed worried about the threat posed by this new version of The Fantastics, and about the quality and intensity of other recent threats.

The man voted Manager of the Year seven years ago continues to display brashness and confidence, but it seems hollow, almost forced. He is groping for answers, but he doesn't even know the questions.

Further studying of history reveals that, in 1988, The Midnight Express did regain the U.S. tag team title from The Fantastics. That doesn't concern Cornette, though. He seems captive to the emotions that followed the loss to The Fantastics, not the joy he felt from the revengeful win.

"I almost feel like I'm having the opportunity to do great things taken away from me," Cornette related. "When this new Smoky Mountain federation started up, I knew it would be a place of action, real action. I also knew I had a tremendous team in The Heavenly Bodies. Stan Lane and I knew each other very well, of course, from the old Midnight days. I'd heard good reports



The Heavenly Bodies had a much easier time winning the Smoky Mountain tag team title than defending it. Jackie Fulton overpowers Stan Lane (above left) and brother Bobby kicks Tom Prichard (above right).

on Tom Prichard over the years. I recruited him and he decided to come on board."

"Best move I've made in years," Prichard related. "With a great partner like Lane and a fine manager like Cornette, I knew we'd be a hit right away, and we were. The Smoky Mountain tag belts were a cinch from there. We didn't feel like there'd be any problem winning them. But we didn't figure on losing them so quickly."

Prichard and Lane took their team name too literally. They fancied themselves celestial beings. But they are *human* beings first, and human beings don't win all the time. Which is a good thing, says Fantastic Bobby Fulton.

"Cornette likes to think every last wrestler in this organization will roll over and play dead at his command," Fulton opined. "He's sponging off his reputation. Hey, look, I won't deny the man has some good ideas. I consider him one of the best

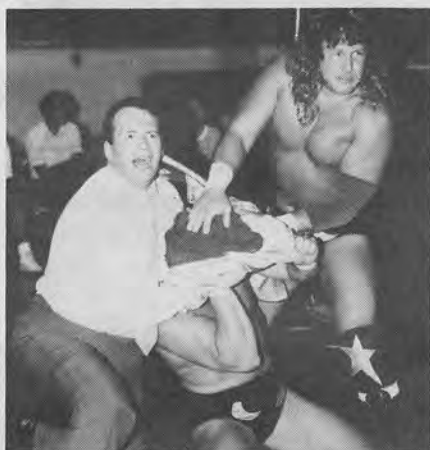


On this occasion, Prichard retained the title but lost plenty of blood. In their next defense, the champions were not nearly as fortunate, losing the belts to The Fantastics.





Jim Cornette did all he could to help the Bodies retain the title, sticking Jackie Fulton in the throat with his tennis racket (above left). Prichard chokes Bobby Fulton (above right), but to no avail.



After losing the SMW title to The Fantastics, Cornette and Prichard express their disbelief while comforting stablemate Lane.

managers ever. But that doesn't make him a master intimidator. The more he tries to push around people, the worse he looks."

Cornette denies that, and insists that despite all obstacles, The Heavenly Bodies will regain the tag team title.

"It's not going to be easy," the manager admitted. "I never thought it would be. I just finished telling you how difficult these past few

weeks have been. Having said that, I'm convinced we'll be on top again. You can't look at my—I mean, *our*—record and say otherwise. My only task right now is to make the Bodies champs."

Lane was quick to pick up on his manager's assertion.

"We know everybody's gunning for us, but we haven't lost sight of our goal," Lane said. "When Jim finds himself in a bad situation, he comes up with a plan that will get him results. It's like back in 1987. Jim had to find a replacement for Dennis Condrey in the Express. He chose me. I'm not bragging to say that Bobby Eaton and I meshed better in a week than Eaton and Condrey did in four years."

"And though that happened more than five years ago," Lane concluded, "the lesson holds. Jim Cornette is a winner. He'll get through this tough spell and come out looking 10 times better."

Jackie Fulton has a "solution" to

The Heavenly Bodies' woes. He says they should consider changing their name.

"I'm serious," Fulton insisted, though a grin snuck through his features. "You hear that name and you think, 'Boy, those guys are full of themselves.' Maybe if they came up with a different moniker, people wouldn't be so eager to beat up on them. Maybe if they had a different *manager*, that would be true. Cornette holds them back; no doubt about it. Tom and Stan are good, solid wrestlers, but Cornette's nonsense holds them back."

Of course they won't change their name. Of course they won't dump their manager. The Heavenly Bodies have become too well-established to take such drastic steps.

They (and Cornette) feel they must live up to the promise such a name entails. That is their mission. And they'll trek through the hell they created for themselves to accomplish it. □

**The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off**  
**... One on One**

# ONE ON ONE



*"As long as I'm breathing, you won't be calling any shots in WCW. The only place you're qualified to call the shots is a zoo."*  
**—Sting**

ON AUGUST 2, WCW wrestlers and fans at the Baltimore Arena discovered what WWF fans had known for years: Jake "The Snake" Roberts strikes with the same quickness as his pet reptile and is every bit as lethal. Roberts came out of the stands and brutally attacked Sting, crushing the former World champion with two of his infamous DDTs onto a metal chair. The "Stinger," who was scheduled to wrestle Big Van Vader for the World title, was instead taken to a hospital.

Two weeks later, the two met on more formal terms at The Omni in Atlanta—a scheduled match. Roberts' behavior, however, was no better. He began the bout by attempting to stuff Sting's head into his snake sack. He ended it with another DDT. Only an appearance by Nikita Koloff stopped Roberts from clobbering Sting with a chair.

The "Stinger" has had a rough stretch. He lost his World title to Vader on July 12 at The Great American Bash. He lost a shot at that title when Roberts stormed into the federation. And he's lost some face with his loyal "little Stingers." But he hasn't lost confidence in his ability. In the match in Atlanta, he dominated Roberts with an array of scientific superiority. Only when referee Mike Atkins was accidentally knocked unconscious did Roberts gain the upper hand.

There is no question that Sting be-

lieves he can beat Roberts. But the question the "Stinger" does have is: Why me? Why has Roberts come after me with his venom? The two have no history and Sting is not currently a champion. In an attempt to provide Sting with an answer, we arranged for him to call Roberts and to speak to "The Snake" . . . "One on One."

**JAKE ROBERTS:**

Yeah, who's this?

**STING:**

It's your favorite wrestler in the whole world.

**JR:** Sting? I'm surprised you can still talk after the beatings I've given

you. I thought by now you'd have pretty severe brain damage. I guess you do, if you're calling me. What the hell do you want, chump?

**S:** I don't want much—the respect and the support of the fans is all I need—but I do get it.

**JR:** How about those near concussions I gave you? Did you want those? You know, if you liked them, I could arrange for you to get them on a regular basis. You're in no position to say you want something. I'm calling all the shots in WCW now.

**S:** As long as I'm breathing, you won't be calling any shots in



# W ONE



*"How were you a two-time World champion in this federation?  
You spend a lot of time getting the hell kicked out of you."*

—Jake Roberts

WCW. The only place you're qualified to call the shots is a zoo. This federation has no place for snakes or any other animals. We wrestle here!

**JR:** Oh, you wrestle? Is that what you call it? I had forgotten the word for lying unconscious on the mat. How were you a two-time World champion in this federation? You spend an awful lot of time getting the hell kicked out of you. If you're the best WCW has to offer, they're not offering much.

**S:** You want an offer? Here's an offer! A best-of-three-falls match at the arena of your choice. No chairs, no snakes, no Cactus Jack,

no nothing. Just you and me, in the ring. Loser leaves WCW. How about it, Jake?

**JR:** Are you crazy? I just got here. I'm just starting to have fun again. Every wrestler in WCW has to keep one eye on me. I'm the center of attention. I'm not about to leave. You would love that, wouldn't you? You can't stand that I'm the one everybody's talking about now.

**S:** That doesn't concern me. I've seen your kind come and go. You claim to be tough, Jake, but you hide behind chairs and snakes and the interference of others. You're a rulebreaker, plain and simple.

The next clean match you wrestle will be the first.

**JR:** So what? Who died and left you boss? Bill Watts runs this federation, not you. You know Bill Watts, and I know Bill Watts. If Bill Watts had any problem with me, he would have said something to me in Baltimore that night. The only thing he said to was, "Do you want to wrestle in WCW?" I said yes. End of story.

**S:** I already told you the things I wanted.

**JR:** And I told you that the days of you getting what you want are over.

**S:** Well, that's obvious, since you turned down my challenge of a loser-leave-town match, like the coward that you are. But regardless of that, the other thing I wanted to know is this: If you have such little regard for my ability as a wrestler, if you don't think that I am the best that WCW has to offer, then why did you come after me?


**JR:** You know, someone told me you were dumb, and now I know why. Right now, what I think of your skills—or lack of them—really doesn't matter. You're the federation's fair-haired boy. The fans love you, the other wrestlers respect you. My goal is to turn WCW into a state of anarchy, and the best way to do that is to tear down and destroy the one wrestler who symbolizes WCW. That, my friend, is you.

**S:** You don't know what you're in for, Jake. I can name a half-dozen fan favorites—some of the toughest wrestlers in WCW—who would jump at the chance to defend me and destroy you at the same time. I don't see any rule-breakers rushing to your side. Plus, I have the support of the "little Stingers," and that makes all the difference in the world.

**JR:** I couldn't care less about what the idiot fans think. No fan has ever helped me win a match. And as for help, I don't need any. The only person I trust is myself. If I were you, I'd watch my back. Snakes are very sneaky. □

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## SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)



The Undertaker chokes another overmatched opponent. Reader Dave Szymanak says that the macabre former World champion is among the most undeserving of the cheers of the crowd, partially because he was rude to fans at a recent autograph signing session.

### UNDESERVING

The Undertaker has got to be one of the most undeserving men to hear the cheers of the fans. Everyone believes the "Grim Reaper" is now a good man because he stopped Jake Roberts from hitting a woman with a chair. This is the only act of his I can recall that was to the benefit of another person.

Actually, that might have been to The Undertaker's credit as well. This way, he would gain the crowd support in any future wars he had planned. But what really disturbs me is his actions, both in and out of the ring. During a recent WWF autograph signing, Undertaker wouldn't answer anyone's questions and would not even apologize to some of the fans who had waited in line for his autograph for a lengthy period of time.

Even worse, I hate how he batters some poor rookie and zips him shut in his bodybag. How I wish someone like Papa Shango would put him in the bag and give him a taste of his own

medicine! Undertaker is a bully who ignores young children and batters weak preliminary wrestlers. And the fans still cheer this guy?

DAVE SZYMANAK  
Johnson City, NY ☐

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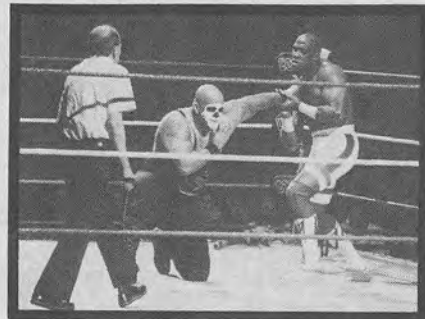
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**June 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Dick Slater. Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patena, Hogan.

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**November 1984/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

**January 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Tito Santana. Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

**February 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

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**September 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams. Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

**February 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Nikita Koloff. Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

**June 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Kevin Von Erich. Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

**July 1986/COLOR PINUP:** King Kong Bundy. R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

**August 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes. Randy Savage, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

**October 1986/COLOR PINUP:** John Studd. Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

**November 1986/COLOR PINUP:** Baby Doll. British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

**January 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Fabulous Freebirds. Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

**February 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

**May 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Steve Williams. Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

**June 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Hulk Hogan. Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

**July 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Midnight Rockers. Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

**August 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Jim Garvin & Precious. Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

**October 1987/COLOR PINUP:** Ted DiBiase. Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

**November 1987/COLOR PINUP:** George Steele. Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

**January 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Road Warriors. Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

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**April 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

**May 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Sting. Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

**June 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Tully Blanchard. Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

**July 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Curt Hennig. Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

**August 1988/COLOR PINUP:** Al Perez. Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

**November 1988/COLOR PINUP:** The Midnight Express. Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

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**October 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Rude. Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

**November 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Ric Flair. Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

**December 1989/COLOR PINUP:** Jimmy Snuka. Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

**January 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sid Vicious. Ultimate, Cornette, Ross, Kerry.

**February 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Bret Hart. Lex Luger, Hogan, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams, Woman.

**April 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Dusty Rhodes. Ric Flair, Hennig vs. Hogan, Sting, Rockers, Lawler.

**May 1990/COLOR PINUP:** The Great Muta. Hulk Hogan, Skyscrapers, R&R Express, Piper, Embury.

**June 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Sting. Hogan vs. Warrior, R&R Express, Rhodes vs. Savage, Arn vs. Sawyer.

**July 1990/COLOR PINUP:** Rick Martel. Lex Luger, Beefcake, Skyscrapers, Heenan, Saito, referees.

**September 1990/PINUP:** Rick & Scott Steiner. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Sting, Horsemen, Hennig.

**October 1990/PINUP:** Brutus Beefcake. COLOR FEATURES: Sting, Tugboat, Ultimate, Long, Blanchard-Orndorff.

**November 1990/PINUP:** Legion of Doom. COLOR FEATURES: Sting beats Flair, Rude-Warrior.

**December 1990/PINUP:** Sting. COLOR FEATURES: Legion of Doom, Kerry, Slaughter, Doom, Horsemen.

**January 1991/PINUP:** Kerry Von Erich. COLOR FEATURES: WWF vs. NWA, Hogan, Hansen, Sting, Sherri.

**February 1991/PINUP:** 1991 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Scott Steiner, Vicious vs. Luger, Rhodes vs. DiBiase.

**April 1991/PINUP:** Tom Zenk. COLOR FEATURES: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan & Warrior, Magnum T.A., Lawler-Gilbert.

**May 1991/PINUP:** Arn Anderson. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Rude, Flair-Sting, Thesz.

**June 1991/PINUP:** Hacksaw Duggan. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Doom, Horsemen, Steiner.

**July 1991/PINUP:** Brian Pillman. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Luger, Demolition, Embry, Horsemen-Vicious.

**October 1991/PINUP:** Lex Luger. COLOR FEATURES: Justice, Hogan-Slaughter, Windham, Williams.

**November 1991/PINUP:** Bobby Eaton. COLOR FEATURES: Savage & Elizabeth, Bushwhackers, Liger, Pillman.

**December 1991/PINUP:** Rick Steamboat. COLOR FEATURES: PWI 500, Simmons, Badd, Hogan-Flair.

**January 1992/PINUP:** Ron Simmons. COLOR FEATURES: Flair, R. Steiner, Ultimate, Luger.

**February 1992/PINUP:** 1992 calendar. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Gilbert, Roberts-Justice, hot prospects.

**April 1992/PINUP:** Ric Flair. COLOR FEATURES: Sting-Luger, Rockers, WWF Violence, Dangerous Alliance.

**May 1992/PINUP:** Rick Rude. COLOR FEATURES: Hogan, Sting & Muta vs. Steiners, Savage-Roberts.

**June 1992/PINUP:** Dustin Rhodes. COLOR FEATURES: Piper interview, Abdullah-Cactus, Flair-Savage, Justice.

**July 1992/PINUP:** Randy Savage. COLOR FEATURES: Best of the Best, Flair, U.S.-Japan, Savage.

**September 1992/PINUP:** Nikita Koloff. FEATURES: Justice, Sting-Savage, Backlund, Steiners, Michaels.

**October 1992/PINUP:** Cactus Jack. FEATURES: Savage vs. Warrior, Embry-Moondogs, Z-Man, Japan fire match.

**November 1992/PINUP:** The Ultimate Warrior. FEATURES: British Bulldog, Undertaker, Steiners, Honky Tonk Man interview.

**December 1992/PINUP:** Big Van Vader. FEATURES: PWI 500, Bossman-Nailz, Watt & WCW rules, Justice interview.

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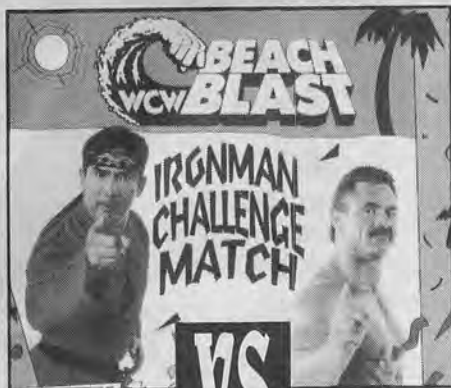
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## DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 12)



The return of the Rock 'n' Rolls (above) means the return of their crazed fans. Reformed rulebreaker Nikolai Volkoff (opposite) has been put in a position of enforcing the rules.

stream. I can appreciate fan favorites and so-called rulebreakers. In fact, I think I have a pretty objective view of the sport.

But whenever I praise Honky Tonk or condemn the Rock 'n' Rolls, my editors and you readers accuse me of trying to imitate Eddie Ellner. Well, that's another reason why I don't like the Rock 'n' Rolls. They incite emotions that get me into trouble.

Which is exactly what happened. There was a lot more to this column—I basically went on an on about the Rock 'n' Rolls—but my editors thought I went a little too far. On second thought, they were probably right, but you probably would've enjoyed it anyway.

As for Morton and Gibson, they probably would've hired a lawyer and sued my journalistic butt. Of course, I wouldn't have this problem if they'd just run away and hide.

\*\*\*

Or maybe the Rock 'n' Rolls should follow the lead of Nikolai Volkoff. Just retire and get a nice quiet desk job.

Thing is, Nikolai Volkoff doesn't have a nice quiet desk job. May-

be it seems that way when you read his job description, but reality is a bit tougher.

Volkoff, a former WWF World tag team champ (with The Iron Sheik), was recently named chairman of the Wrestling Independent Network's Championship and Competition Committee.

WIN, based in Baltimore, Maryland, hired Volkoff because of his vast skills in dealing with rulebreakers and his knowledge of the game. Volkoff will be used occasionally as a special referee.

"I couldn't think of a better man for the job," said Jeff Capo, who formerly assumed those duties. "Everyone respects this man. He's proven his worth as a wrestler and as a U.S. citizen. He's truly earned this position."

Now, here is something to admire. Volkoff is the perfect example of a wrestler who turned his life around and realized that not everything about America is bad.

The mighty Russian was once one of the most heinous rulebreakers in our sport. He was basically the big, bad, bald communist who came to the U.S. to teach us lazy Americans a lesson in any way possible.





I don't have one single fond memory of Volkoff. It's hard to believe that he'll now have to punish rulebreakers instead of teaching them. But in WIN, he'll be forced to legislate against such men as The Lords of Darkness, The Sandman, and Max Thrasher.

Volkoff used to make these guys look like choir boys.

"I have not forgotten my past, and this might seem strange, but I am proud of it, too," Volkoff told me. "I accomplished a great deal in wrestling and I do not have to apologize for the way it was done. If people have a problem with that, it does not bother me." But how can this former rulebreaker have changed so much?

"I did what I was allowed to do," Volkoff said. "In my new federation, people will not be allowed to do what I did. Some call it rule-breaking, I call it taking advantage of your opportunities. People like Max Thrasher will not have the same opportunities."

Fascinating. So Volkoff hasn't changed. We can all decide over the next few months whether that's good or bad. The eyes of the wrestling world will be on Volkoff as he begins his new job.

Now, as for The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... ☐

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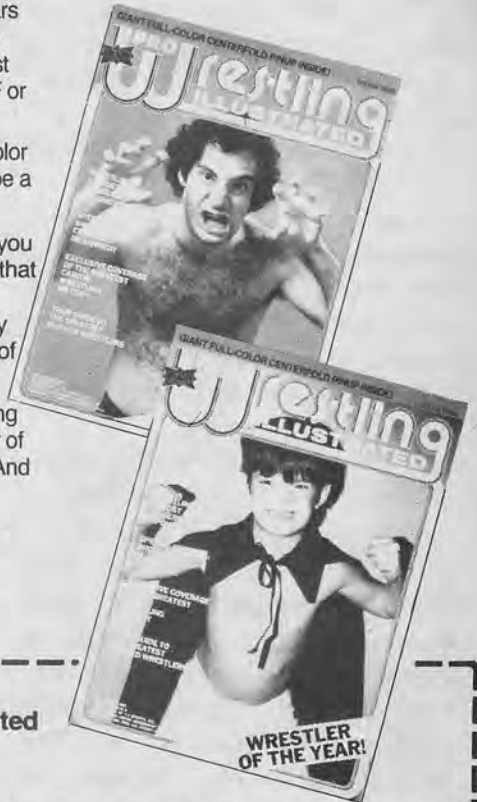
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## ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 16)

"I was too disconnected to even think it could be an impostor," he says. "Which clearly shows the scars of my heritage. Why on earth would a security officer kick me in my head? It is an absurd thought.

"This will sound funny, but when I discovered the truth, a small part of me was relieved. Had it been a real officer, I might have been forced to move back to Lithuania."

Koloff's "relief" was short-lived, however. Madusa's vicious karate kick weakened Koloff enough to cost him the match, as Rude pinned him shortly thereafter. As Koloff fans are well-aware, Nikita does not like to lose.

"Ever since I turned my back on them, The Dangerous Alliance has been desperate to gain revenge," he said bitterly. "This Madusa nonsense was a good tactic. It worked. I was made to look foolish, then I lost the match. I accept the humiliation and offer them an old Russian proverb: The bleeding bear eats villages for dessert.

"The Alliance will not survive this year. They are just like the Horsemen before it. These units all self-destruct. I will crush Rick Rude and win the U.S. title, and I will hurt Paul E. Dangerously. He deserves a beating, a physical one. A man with his ego can withstand humiliation. Words roll off his back. But real pain he cannot fathom. A broken hip perhaps, or a cracked clavicle. That is language that will gain his attention. And that is his destiny."

What about his attacker? What does Nikita have in store for Madusa?

"It is a hard riddle to solve," Koloff explains. "Women where I come from are very strong. They work as hard as men and must



Koloff believes that although she is a woman, Madusa (left) must be held responsible for her actions. He is also adamant about dethroning Rick Rude (right) as U.S. champion.



hold the family together. I admire Madusa for her strength. If I hit her, then I am singled out as a villain. But I have survived that label before.

"One thing is sure: She will not continue her free ride. I am not telling her to quit the ring. I am not threatening her, as I did Dangerously. I am just saying to her that she must accept responsibility for her actions. Let her interpret that as she will."

The response from the other camp was predictable. Rude was more interested in my love life than he was in any possible danger posed by the "Russian Nightmare."

"Lizzy, you know that guy is washed up," Rude crowed. "He's a windbag. He blames the loss on Madusa? I could have pinned him anytime during that match. I just wanted Madusa to have a little fun, that's all."

From Dangerously came this comment: "Nikita was right—I am guilty of poor judgment. I must've

taken too many Sinutabs when I asked him to join the Alliance. Damn that hay fever! I just hope my fellow Alliance members can forgive my temporarily overmedicated lapse in judgment."

And, of course, Madusa was anything but silent about Nikita's "threats."

"If that boy wants me so badly, I give you permission to disclose my address, phone number, and favorite places I shop," she said haughtily. "I'll give him a daily itinerary if he wants one. I'm not scared of anyone, especially some sorry cueball-headed communist."

"It is a sorry condition these people find themselves in," Koloff concluded. "They expect me to fear them. If only they knew how pathetic they seem to me. They'd die of embarrassment."

With that comment, Koloff smiled. It was the first time I'd seen him smile since this whole, sordid feud with Rude began. □



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**INSIDE WRESTLING** looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review. Also included are stories on: Bobby Heenan, Ric Flair, and Paul Orndorff.



DECEMBER 1990

**WRESTLER** brings you to SummerSlam '90 with four pages of full-color, including coverage of Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, The Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude, and Kerry Von Erich vs. Curt Hennig. Also included are stories on: Stan Hansen, Arn Anderson, and The Ultimate Warrior.



OCTOBER 1991

**WRESTLER** was the 25th anniversary celebration of the longest continuously published wrestling magazine. Highlights include: 12 color pages of the greatest photos ever, a year-by-year review of the hot *Wrestler* stories (1966-1991), and a ranking of the top 25 wrestlers of the past 25 years.



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## THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 14)



Should Bob Backlund regain the WWF World title, it would be a remarkable story, but not as remarkable as his reign of nearly six years between 1978 and 1983.

longer than Hulk Hogan!

Say, miracle of miracles, Backlund manages to recapture the WWF title. Would he not then instantly become the most remarkable sports story of this era?

Of course not. Because you can bet that there are plenty more remarkable stories where that one came from. Maybe it was Buddy Rogers demanding parts of Buddy Landell—and *meaning* it—a few months before his death. Or Ric Flair's (remember him?) performance at the Royal Rumble scant days after I penned his professional obituary with tears streaming down my face.

In this sport, no one is ever counted out unless the coroner signs their death certificate. Face it, if a no-talent megawaste like Sgt. Slaughter can reclaim the gold, anyone can. Of course, for every successful resurrection (Steve Williams, Randy Savage, The Road Warriors), there are dozens of pathetic, ill-conceived comebacks by wrestlers who never earned their merits in the first place. Men who are hoping to sneak one last payday past an unsuspecting and trusting public.

And don't mention Dick Slater, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Andre the Giant, The Barbarian, The "New" Fantastics, or others of their ilk in these quarters. Their chances of capturing a major title at their ages is remote at best, nearing impossible.



The question I am most asked by curious readers is: Don't you feel like a schmo when a man you've condemned to the ash heap sneaks out and wins a title? These people fail to understand the basic agreement between athletes and sportswriters.

Athletes are paid exceptional sums of money to perform—which means they must consistently duplicate their best effort to satisfy the public. No one cares if a preliminary wrestler loses most of his matches. But when a superstar making millions turns in a bad streak, well, it's time to sharpen the poison pen and condemn him to hell—even though, in all likelihood, that athlete will turn it around.

We in the press box (and in the seats) suffer slumps poorly. Our expectations of athletes are way beyond normal. If, in our jobs, we were held to the same daily, public scrutiny, most of us would break down.

You say, pay me \$3-million a year and I'll take the chance. Exactly. Our bargain is written in dollars, ink, and blood. The athlete takes the money, he better perform—or be prepared to read about it the next day.

I am in the business of canonization and doomsaying; I make saints and devils with the punch of a typewriter key. Thus I, too, am at risk. I remember once predicting the end for The Legion of Doom. They lost their nerve, their vitality, I thundered in print, my voice the voice of God. And sure enough, the LOD became mired in a four-month slump. I looked like a genius. Three months later, Hawk and Animal captured the WWF World tag team title and were ranked number one in the world.

Which means only one thing is really certain: What I write today is definitely, without doubt, the complete truth—or it may not be.

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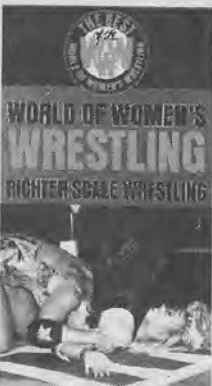
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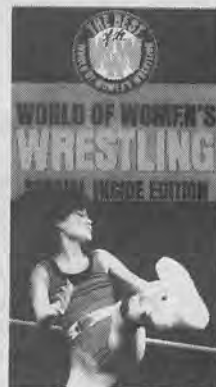
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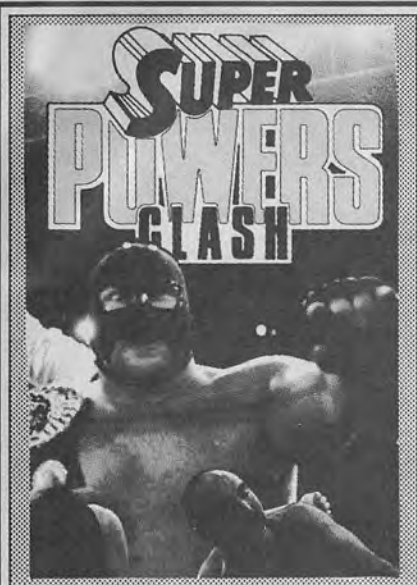
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## FLAIR

(Continued from page 28)



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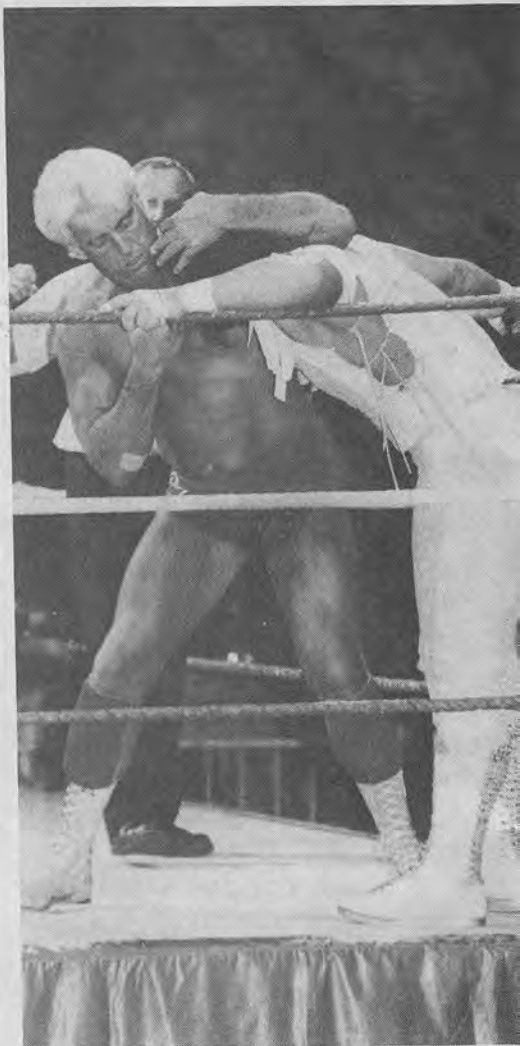
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But Flair would vehemently disagree. He'd trade in all of his pre-SummerSlam title matches for one shot at the SummerSlam match itself. "Ric Flair is one man who shines brightest under the big spotlight," said former NWA World champion Terry Funk, who feuded with Flair in 1989. "He's a different wrestler in the high-profile match, when the whole world is watching. His ego is his biggest strength—and his biggest weakness."

Another of Flair's weaknesses is not being man enough to accept responsibility for his failures. He has blamed everybody but himself for not getting the SummerSlam main event. Heck, Flair's the former champion, isn't he? Doesn't he deserve all of the title matches?

Absolutely not. He deserves a handful. In boxing, he'd get one.

How about poor ol' battered and bewildered Curt Hennig, who Flair wouldn't be battling Savage for the title (right) if he had won at WrestleMania (below), a loss he and "executive consultant" Mr. Perfect vehemently protested.





helped Flair every step of the way to the World title win. Where was Hennig when the SummerSlam '92 card was finalized?

"From what I hear, he was battling pretty hard in Flair's corner," one WWF insider said. "But the powers that be were squarely against Flair-Savage."

Hennig, however, made up for this by getting the Savage matches for Flair. How did the "Nature Boy" thank him? He hasn't thanked him at all. In fact, Flair criticizes Hennig every chance he gets. It is not a perfect situation for Mr. Perfect.

This is not the Flair we used to know. Actually, the old Flair would have had no trouble regaining the title from Savage. He probably never would have lost it to him in the first place.

What happened to the Flair who turned in that brilliant effort at the Royal Rumble and won the title? He must have realized then, as he knew all along, that performance is what counts in this sport. Complaining usually gets a wrestler nowhere.

What happens when a baseball player argues a strike call?

Nothing.

What happens when a football player argues a pass interference call?

Nothing.

We have no doubt Flair is wasting valuable energy and time. Before long, the matches against Savage will end. If the WWF doesn't stop them, the fans will be no longer attending live cards on which Flair-Savage is the main event.

The true shame here is that a great athlete is behaving and performing abysmally. The old Flair knew actions speak much louder than words. The new Flair is all talk and no action.

The man who broke a record for most world title reigns is beginning to sound like a broken record.

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#### VOL. 4 □

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Junkyard Dog vs. Butch Reed  
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Tiger Mask, Keith Eric & Mad Dog  
King Kong Bundy vs. Jerry Lawler  
Terry Funk vs. Mark Lewin  
Tommy Rich vs. Masai Ito  
Jerry Lawler vs. Kamala  
Ray Stevens, Blackjack Mulligan & Baron Von Raschke vs. The Crusher, Dick the Bruiser & Sailor Art Thomas

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The Sheik vs. Andre the Giant  
Pampero vs. Jeff Doney  
Bruiser Brody & Scott Casey vs. Kelly Kiniski & The Spoiler  
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King Kong Bundy & "Ravishing" Rick Rude vs. Jerry Lawler & Randy "Macho Man" Savage

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#### VOL. 3 □

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Ivan Putski vs. Eddie Mansfield  
Tito Santana vs. Kelly Kiniski  
The Sheik vs. Tom Jones  
Bobo Brazil vs. Michael Angelo  
Chief Wahoo McDaniel vs. Tully Blanchard  
Eddie Gilbert vs. Jerry Lawler

#### VOL. 4 □

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Austin Idol vs. Masai Ito  
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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

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|--|--|--|---|
| 1— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>(-) WCW World champion  | 4— <b>BRET HART</b><br>(3) WWF I-C champion                      | 8— <b>TONY ANTHONY</b><br>(-) Smoky Mountain champion        | 12— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>(-) No. 1 contender: U.S. title |
| 2— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>(1) WWF World champion | 5— <b>BIG VAN VADER</b><br>(2) No. 2 contender: WCW title        | 9— <b>KAMALA</b><br>(-) No. 3 contender: WWF title           | 13— <b>STING</b><br>(4) No. 5 contender: WCW title          |
| 3— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>(5) WCW U.S. champion     | 6— <b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>(7) No. 2 contender: WWF title | 10— <b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b><br>(-) No. 1 contender: I-C title | 14— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>(6) No. 4 contender: WWF title      |
|  | 7— <b>EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>(-) USWA champion                     | 11— <b>STEVE AUSTIN</b><br>(11) WCW TV champion              | 15— <b>RENO RIGGINS</b><br>(-) USWA Southern champion       |

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>(8) 260, Warner Robins, GA | 4— <b>STEVE AUSTIN</b><br>(5) 241, Dallas, TX         | 8— <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b><br>(13) 254, Austin, TX       | 12— <b>BARRY WINDHAM</b><br>(7) 263, Sweetwater, TX  |
| 2— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>(2) 246, Robbinsdale, MN     | 5— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>(9) 275, Lithuania         | 9— <b>CACTUS JACK</b><br>(12) 304, Truth Or Cons., NM | 13— <b>BRIAN PILLMAN</b><br>(14) 229, Cincinnati, OH |
| 3— <b>BIG VAN VADER</b><br>(1) 445, Denver, CO      | 6— <b>STING</b><br>(3) 260, Venice Beach, CA          | 10— <b>SUPER INVADER</b><br>(10) 256, Thailand        | 14— <b>JOHNNY B. BADD</b><br>(-) 234, Macon, GA      |
|   | 7— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>(-) 246, Stone Mountain, GA | 11— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>(6) 238, Honolulu, HI    | 15— <b>M.A. BAGWELL</b><br>(-) 235, Marietta, GA     |

## WWF

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>(1) 245, Sarasota, FL   | 4— <b>KAMALA</b><br>(13) 360, Uganda                 | 8— <b>CRUSH</b><br>(14) 310, Honolulu, HI             | 12— <b>SHAWN MICHAELS</b><br>(10) 220, San Antonio, TX |
| 2— <b>BRET HART</b><br>(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta  | 5— <b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b><br>(5) 245, Leeds, England | 9— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>(8) 236, Quebec City, Quebec | 13— <b>BIG BOSSMAN</b><br>(11) 287, Cobb County, GA    |
| 3— <b>ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>(4) 275, Queens, NY | 6— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>(3) 243, Minneapolis, MN      | 10— <b>THE MOUNTIE</b><br>(6) 232, Montreal, Quebec   | 14— <b>VIRGIL</b><br>(15) 245, parts unknown           |
|   | 7— <b>THE UNDERTAKER</b><br>(7) 320, Dallas, TX      | 11— <b>RAZOR RAMON</b><br>(-) 291, Minneapolis, MN    | 15— <b>PAPA SHANGO</b><br>(12) 340, parts unknown      |

## MOST POPULAR

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| 1— <b>THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Popular | 4— <b>BRET HART</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Popular      | 8— <b>THE UNDERTAKER</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Popular | 12— <b>SCOTT STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Popular    |
| 2— <b>RON SIMMONS</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Popular          | 5— <b>JERRY LAWLER</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Popular   | 9— <b>NIKITA KOLOFF</b><br>Last month: unrated              | 13— <b>JEFF JARRETT</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Popular    |
| 3— <b>STING</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Popular                | 6— <b>RICK STEAMBOAT</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Popular | 10— <b>DUSTIN RHODES</b><br>Last month: unrated             | 14— <b>RICK STEINER</b><br>Last month: No. 11 Most Popular    |
|  | 7— <b>RANDY SAVAGE</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Popular   | 11— <b>CRUSH</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Popular          | 15— <b>DAVEY BOY SMITH</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Popular |

## MOST HATED

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1— <b>JAKE ROBERTS</b><br>Last month: unrated       | 4— <b>BIG VAN VADER</b><br>Last month: No. 1 Most Hated | 8— <b>SHAWN MICHAELS</b><br>Last month: No. 7 Most Hated | 12— <b>PAPA SHANGO</b><br>Last month: No. 6 Most Hated        |
| 2— <b>RIC FLAIR</b><br>Last month: No. 2 Most Hated | 5— <b>THE MOUNTIE</b><br>Last month: No. 4 Most Hated   | 9— <b>STEVE AUSTIN</b><br>Last month: No. 8 Most Hated   | 13— <b>NAILZ</b><br>Last month: No. 10 Most Hated             |
| 3— <b>RICK RUDE</b><br>Last month: No. 3 Most Hated | 6— <b>CACTUS JACK</b><br>Last month: No. 5 Most Hated   | 10— <b>RICK MARTEL</b><br>Last month: unrated            | 14— <b>SUPER INVADER</b><br>Last month: unrated               |
|   | 7— <b>EDDIE GILBERT</b><br>Last month: No. 9 Most Hated | 11— <b>MIKE DAVIS</b><br>Last month: No. 13 Most Hated   | 15— <b>BRIAN CHRISTOPHER</b><br>Last month: No. 12 Most Hated |

## TAG TEAMS

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1— <b>THE NATURAL DISASTERS</b><br>(3) WWF World tag team champions                  | 6— <b>THE NASTY BOYS</b><br>(9) No. 2 contenders: WWF tag title                   | 11— <b>OWEN HART &amp; KOKO B. WARE</b><br>(12) No. 4 contenders: WWF tag title |
| 2— <b>TERRY GORDY &amp; STEVE WILLIAMS</b><br>(1) WCW World tag team champions       | 7— <b>DICK SLATER &amp; GREG VALENTINE</b><br>(-) No. 2 contenders: WCW tag title | 12— <b>BARON VON RASCHKE &amp; BRAD RHEINGANS</b><br>(-) PWA tag team champions |
| 3— <b>RICK &amp; SCOTT STEINER</b><br>(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW tag title            | 8— <b>THE LEGION OF DOOM</b><br>(7) No. 3 contenders: WWF tag title               | 13— <b>DOUG FURNAS &amp; DAN KROFFAT</b><br>(13) UWA tag team champions         |
| 4— <b>IRWIN R. SCHYSTER &amp; TED DIBIASE</b><br>(4) No. 1 contenders: WWF tag title | 9— <b>BOBBY &amp; JACKIE FULTON</b><br>(-) Smoky Mountain tag team champions      | 14— <b>THE MOONDOGS</b><br>(5) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title                 |
| 5— <b>JEFF JARRETT &amp; JERRY LAWLER</b><br>(-) USWA tag team champions             | 10— <b>THE BLACKBIRDS</b><br>(-) Global tag team champions                        | 15— <b>THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS</b><br>(-) No. 1 contenders: SMW tag title     |



These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended August 20, 1992

# ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

## ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KENTA KOBASHI & TSUYOSHI AIKUCHI

(May 25, 1992; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Miyago, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & AKIRA TAUE

(March 4, 1992; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: SAKI HASEGAWA

(July 15, 1992; from Mariko Yoshida; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(April 1, 1990; from Mitsuko Nishiwaki; Tokyo, Japan)

## ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S PACIFIC CHAMPION: KYOKO INOUE

(June 5, 1992; from Bison Kimura; Asahikawa, Japan)

## ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MANAMI TOYOTA & TOSHYO YAMADA

(March 20, 1992; from Aja Kong & Bison Kimura; Tokyo, Japan)

## CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION CHAMPION: RAMBO

(July 6, 1991; from Big Van Vader; Graz, Austria)

## CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION EUROPEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MAD BULL BUSTER & LARRY CARMON

(July 11, 1992; for vacant title over Miles Zmo & Steve Regal; Graz, Austria)

## CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(July 11, 1992; from Bob Orton Jr. for vacant title; Graz, Austria)

## CATCH WRESTLING ASSOCIATION MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPION: FRANZ SCHUHMAN

(July 11, 1992; from Dave Finlay; Graz, Austria)

## ECW CHAMPION: JIMMY SNUKA

(July 12, 1992; from Johnny Hot Body; Philadelphia, PA)

## ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SUPER DESTROYERS

(June 23, 1992; tournament final over Night Breed; Philadelphia, PA)

## GREAT LAKES CHAMPION: IVAN KOLOFF

(July 11, 1992; from Psycho Mike; Willowick, OH)

## \* GWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ALEX PORTEAU

(July 31, 1992; from Terry Simms; Dallas, TX)

## GWF NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: SCOTT PUTSKI

(May 29, 1992; for vacant title over Johnny Mantell; Dallas, TX)

## \* GWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ICEMAN PARSONS & ACTION JACKSON

(August 7, 1992; from Booker T. & Stevie Ray; Dallas, TX)

## GWF TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Sam Houston)

## IWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(by IWA officials' decision)

## IWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE THUNDERFOOTS

(July 14, 1991; from The Terminators; Sydney, Australia)

## IWA U.S. CHAMPION: PRESTON STEELE

(July 14, 1991; from Jules Strongbow; Sydney, Australia)

## IWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(March 25, 1990; from Peggy Lee Leather; Palmetto, FL)

## IWCCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOE SAVOLDI

(December 26, 1991; from The Tasmaniac; Monticello, NY)

## IWCCW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SIOUX WAR PARTY

(May 9, 1992; tournament final over The Canadians; Hamburg, PA)

## IWF CHAMPION: BLACKJACK MULLIGAN

(February 28, 1992; from Mondo Kleen; Orlando, FL)

## IWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE LONGRIDERS

(February 8, 1992; from The Heartbreakers; Orlando, FL)

## \* IWGP CHAMPION: THE GREAT MUTA

(August 16, 1992; from Riki Choshu; Fukuoka, Japan)

## IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(June 26, 1992; from Big Van Vader & Bam Bam Bigelow; Tokyo, Japan)

## IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER

(June 26, 1992; from El Samurai; Tokyo, Japan)

## LPWA CHAMPION: TERRI POWER

(February 23, 1992; from Lady X; Rochester, MN)

## LPWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUDY MARTIN & LELANI KAI

(February 28, 1991; from Misty Blue Simmes & Heidi Lee Morgan; Laughlin, NV)

## NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HERCULES

(June 13, 1992; from Tony Capone; Mt. Vernon, NY)

## NEW ZEALAND CHAMPION: BRUNO BEKKAR

(December 12, 1987; from Johnny Garcia; Auckland, New Zealand)

## NWA CHAMPION: MASA CHONO

(August 12, 1992; tournament final over Rick Rude; Tokyo, Japan)

## NWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(July 12, 1992; tournament final over Barry Windham & Dustin Rhodes; Albany, GA)

## PWA CHAMPION: CHARLIE NORRIS

(November 17, 1991; from Teijho Khan; Minneapolis, MN)

## PWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BRAD RHEINGANS & BARON VON RASCHKE

(January 25, 1992; from The Punishers; Annandale, MN)

## PWF CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(January 28, 1992; from Jumbo Tsuruta; Chiba, Japan)

## PWF INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & AKIRA TAUE

(March 4, 1992; from Steve Williams & Terry Gordy; Tokyo, Japan)

## SAPW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NEIL SUPERIOR

(January 11, 1992; from Helmut Hesler; Hagerstown, MD)

## \* SAPW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE RINGLORDS

(July 24, 1992; from Rob Van Dam & Chazz Rocco; Clover, SC)

## \* SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ANTHONY

(August 8, 1992; from Brian Lee; Johnson City, TN)

## \* SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE FANTASTICS

(August 8, 1992; from Stan Lane & Tom Prichard; Johnson City, TN)

## SUPER WORLD SPORTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: YOSHIKI YATSU & HAKU

(April 18, 1992; from Earthquake & Typhoon; Tokyo, Japan)

## \* USWA CHAMPION: EDDIE GILBERT

(July 20, 1992; from Rick Morton; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: RENO RIGGINS

(August 10, 1992; from Brian Christopher; Memphis, TN)

## \* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JERRY LAWLER & JEFF JARRETT

(August 17, 1992; from The Moonhogs; Memphis, TN)

## UWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: EL CANEK

(July 5, 1992; from Dos Caras; Naucalpan, Mexico)

## UWF INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: GARY ALBRIGHT

(May 8, 1992; tournament final over Nobuhiko Takada; Yokohama, Japan)

## WCW LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRAD ARMSTRONG

(July 5, 1992; from Scotty Flamingo; Atlanta, GA)

## WCW TV CHAMPION: STEVE AUSTIN

(April 27, 1992; from Barry Windham; Atlanta, GA)

## WCW U.S. CHAMPION: RICK RUDE

(November 19, 1991; from Sting; Savannah, GA)

## \* WCW WORLD CHAMPION: RON SIMMONS

(August 2, 1992; from Big Van Vader; Baltimore, MD)

## WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: STEVE WILLIAMS & TERRY GORDY

(July 5, 1992; from Rick & Scott Steiner; Atlanta, GA)

## WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: THE SHEIK

(June 25, 1992; from Atsushi Onita; Sapporo, Japan)

## WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TARZAN GOTO & GREGORY VERITCHEV

(May 24, 1992; from Horace Boulder & Sabu; Tokyo, Japan)

## WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(January 6, 1992; from Greg Valentine; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SOUTHERN ROCKERS

(June 24, 1992; from Ron Starr & Doug Masters; Dorado, Puerto Rico)

## WWC TV CHAMPION: DICK MURDOCH

(January 6, 1992; from Invader I; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: INVADER I

(August 8, 1992; from Carlos Colon; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

## \* WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: AMARILIS

(August 9, 1992; from La Tigresa; Ponce, Puerto Rico)

## WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: BRET HART

(April 5, 1992; from Roddy Piper; Indianapolis, IN)

## WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(April 5, 1992; from Ric Flair; Indianapolis, IN)

## WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE NATURAL DISASTERS

(July 20, 1992; from Ted DiBiase & Irwin R. Schyster; Worcester, MA)

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### **GENE STANLEE vs. KILLER KOWALSKI**

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There has rarely been a more natural rivalry than the one that existed between rugged Killer Kowalski and “Mr. America” Gene Stanlee in the '50s and '60s. Kowalski resented Stanlee for his dashing good looks and bodybuilder physique, while Stanlee hated Kowalski for his vile tactics.

“He used to call me soft and a pretty boy,” said Stanlee after this bout at New York’s Madison Square Garden. “I proved to him I’m every bit as tough as he is.” Unfortunately for Stanlee, Kowalski scored the pin at the 16:28 mark, but this feud continued on for years to come, with both men scoring victories. “Sure, but history shows I was the better man,” Kowalski still says today.



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